

Hide & Seek

A Family Game



We would like our children to be involved with the dog and to have fun together.

We also need to keep our dogs and children safe from each other. For example, young children should not be involved with the dog's food or feeding, in case there are any tendencies of the dog to guard. See handout "Teresa's Bad Rules" for more details.



Here is a way to play "Hide & Seek" with the dog's food in a safe manner.

NOTE: All games MUST include active participation by at least one responsible adult.

How to Play Hide & Seek with Food

This game is ONLY for dogs that have no issues around food (e.g. guards food against people or animals).

1. ADULT: Prepare a small bowl of treats or food and put in a place that is accessible to the child, but not to the dog.
2. ADULT: Put the dog in a crate or hold the dog securely by his collar, while feeding him treats or food, so that he enjoys being (mildly) restrained.
3. CHILD: Take five pieces of food/treats and "hide" in plain sight of the dog. This is IMPORTANT: Let the dog see you hide the food.
4. CHILD: Sit on allocated chair next to adult.
5. CHILD: Say "Go Find It!"
6. ADULT: Let dog go to find the food.
7. ALL: Applaud, but remain sitting, for every piece of food that the dog finds.

8. ADULT: When dog gives up, or has found all the food, retrieve the dog (using food, not manhandling!) and take the dog back to his crate or back to your chair and hold on to him.
9. CHILD: Once dog is restrained, leave chair and pick up another five treats, and hide them. If the dog found all the five treats from the previous game, you can hide the next batch in slightly more difficult places.
10. CHILD: Sit on allocated chair next to adult.
11. CHILD: Say "Go Find It!"
12. ADULT: Let dog go to find the food.
13. ALL: Applaud, but remain sitting, for every piece of food that the dog finds.

Repeat until the dog has had his dinner, or until you run out of steam. Then give the dog any remaining treats on his bed or in his crate.

Have Fun – But Be Safe!

