

# BUILDING RETRIEVE DRIVE AT HOME

🐾 TEACH RESPECTFUL BEHAVIORS. BUILD RETRIEVE DRIVE. OBEDIENCE CAN COME LATER. 🐾

## DO ✓



### USE A LONG LEAD

It allows you to guide them in, create success and build desire.



### MAKE IT FUN

Be excited! Your enthusiasm builds their enthusiasm.



### WHEN THEY BRING IT BACK

Get down at their level. Pet them. Praise them. Let them hold it for a moment. Make it a celebration!



### LET THEM KEEP IT (FOR A MOMENT)

They worked hard to get it. Don't immediately take it away.



### KEEP SESSIONS SHORT

End while they're excited and wanting more. Leave them ready for the next time.



### BUILD CONFIDENCE

Start easy. Set them up to win. Success creates desire.



### FOCUS ON DESIRE

We're not asking for perfection, we're building WANT.



## DON'T ✗



### DON'T RETRIEVE UNTIL THEY'RE BORED

Too many retrieves = losing drive. Always end on a positive note.



### DON'T PUT TOO MUCH OBEDIENCE ON THEM

Telling them to be still and then go is hard for them to wrap their mind around. Balance is key.



### DON'T IMMEDIATELY TAKE THE OBJECT AWAY

This can create keep-away and decrease desire to bring it back.



### DON'T CHASE OR PLAY KEEP-AWAY

It turns the retrieve into a game of avoidance instead of desire.



### DON'T OVERDO REPETITIONS

If the last one is boring, that's what they'll remember.



### DON'T CONTINUE WHEN ENTHUSIASM DROPS

Stop and try again another day. Protect their desire.

## RETRIEVES BY AGE

A simple rule of thumb:

AGE IN MONTHS = MAX RETRIEVES



2 MONTHS OLD = 2 RETRIEVES

3 MONTHS OLD = 3 RETRIEVES

4 MONTHS OLD = 4 RETRIEVES

5 MONTHS OLD = 5 RETRIEVES

Start with the age guideline. If they're really wanting another, you can add one more. If they seemed bored at the end, drop back down next time.

## TEETHING MATTERS

4-6 MONTHS OLD



Puppies are losing puppy teeth and getting adult teeth. Their mouth can be sore and uncomfortable.

If retrieve drive drops during this stage, don't panic. It will pick back up once teething is complete.

## WHEN THEY BRING IT BACK...

THIS IS WHERE DRIVE IS BUILT



- ✓ Get down at their level.
- ✓ Pet them. Praise them.
- ✓ Let them hold it.
- ✓ Make it a celebration.
- ✓ Build the relationship.

*Don't make the retrieve about taking it away. Make it about celebrating success.*

## IF THEY DON'T WANT

TO GIVE IT UP  
AVOID THE BATTLE



- ✓ Stay calm.
- ✓ Don't chase them.
- ✓ Avoid tug-of-war.
- ✓ Use trades when appropriate.
- ✓ Teach a release over time.
- ✓ Ask a trainer to show you safe techniques if needed.

*Never make the end of the retrieve a wrestling match.*

## THE LAST RETRIEVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT



If the last thing they remember is, "Wow, that was fun!" they'll be excited next time.

If the last thing they remember is, "I'm tired of this." that feeling will carry over to the next session.



Leave them wanting **ONE MORE RETRIEVE.**



BUILD DESIRE TODAY. RAISE A RETRIEVER FOR LIFE.