

# Mind Games for Dogs

Sarah Whitehead



Dogwise™ Solutions

**Dogwise Solutions**  
**Mind Games for Dogs**

Sarah Whitehead

Dogwise Publishing

A Division of Direct Book Service, Inc.

403 South Mission Street, Wenatchee, Washington 98801

1-509-663-9115, 1-800-776-2665

[www.dogwisepublishing.com](http://www.dogwisepublishing.com) / [info@dogwisepublishing.com](mailto:info@dogwisepublishing.com)

© 2012 Sarah Whitehead

ISBN: 9781617810633

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, digital or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage or retrieval system without permission in writing from the publisher.

**Limits of Liability and Disclaimer of Warranty:**

The author and publisher shall not be liable in the event of incidental or consequential damages in connection with, or arising out of, the furnishing, performance, or use of the instructions and suggestions contained in this book.

Printed in the U.S.A.

**Sarah Whitehead**, BA(Hons), Msc. pet behavior specialist, author and internationally recognized speaker, lives and works in England. Sarah is a member of the APBC (Association of Pet Behavior Counsellors), APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers) and Director of Alpha Education, an organization offering accredited and practical courses in canine behavior and training. She specializes in aggression problems, puppy development, canine body language and clicker training. Sarah lives in Berkshire, UK with her three dogs. To find out more about accredited courses in canine behavior and training in England, or for more details about her training philosophy, please visit [www.cleverdogcompany.com](http://www.cleverdogcompany.com).



## Introduction

Bored dogs get into trouble. Bright and active dogs get into mischief. Without enough to keep them occupied, dogs of all types will go self-employed: raiding the bin, digging holes in the garden, barking for attention – or 101 other behaviors we wish they wouldn't do.

This booklet was inspired by one of my own dogs—Jackson. At the age of five months, he needed extensive surgery for a hip problem. Of course, the post-op phase meant much-reduced exercise and presented me with the challenge of how to keep a young and enthusiastic pup occupied—while keeping my shoes safe from being chewed!

Dogs in the wild face puzzles every day. They have to find food, water and a safe place to sleep. Our dogs have all this provided: they get their food in a dish, their water is always available and their cozy basket sits in the corner. Dogs need to use their brains to keep occupied, happy and well-balanced.

The ideas in this booklet are perfect for dogs that can't have as much exercise as they would like and as a foundation for those that are hyperactive or have behavioral problems.

Most of all, these mind games are designed to be fun, fast and effective for all dogs to enjoy!

## Contents:

### Fun with food

- Scatter brain
- Message in a bottle
- Just like that!
- What's in the box?
- Indoor hide and seek
- Chewing—what's hot, what's not

### Your dog's on/off switch

- Impulse control
- Settle down

### Amazing mazes

#### Targeting

- Getting started
- Having fun with targeting

### Outdoor pursuits

- Racing circuits
- Basic tracking

### Tricks!

- Rollover
- My dog can read!

### Canine geniuses

- The 101 game
- Take the IQ test



## Fun with food

Quick and easy, this game is perfect for when you have limited time, but your dog needs to engage his brain.

Rather than give your dog food in a dish, why not make him work for it? After all, you had to work to buy it!

Food in a dish takes only seconds to eat. Food scattered in your garden, or even around your home, can take many minutes to find and consume, keeping your dog busy in an appropriate way while ensuring that he's using those bits of his brain that would otherwise go unexercised.

### Scatter brain

Start out by scattering your dog's food in a small area—preferably on a smooth surface so he can easily see it and find it. Once your dog has got the hang of this, try scattering it in a wider area, then move on to throwing it onto grass—which means your dog will have to hunt with his nose, not just his eyes.

If your dog is a real expert at finding his dinner, you can make it more of a challenge by scattering it under bushes or in longer grass. You can even make a 'food trail' by dropping the pieces of food in a long, random line. My dogs love this game—in fact they are thoroughly disappointed if I give them their dinner in a bowl.



Wet food doesn't really lend itself to scatter feeding, but you can easily adapt the idea by putting your dog's ration into several small containers and hiding them around the house and garden. Your dog will love tracking down his food and eating it one portion at a time.

Alternatively, you can put your dog's wet food inside a Kong or two and allow him to chew and lick the toy in order to get it out. You can even freeze the Kong with your dog's dinner inside for a refreshing puzzle on hot days. This is best enjoyed outside!

### Crowd control

If you have more than one dog, be careful not to increase competition around food by scatter feeding them together. Instead, occupy one dog with scatter feeding indoors, while the other is outside searching for his food. Alternatively, feed in separate rooms.

## Message in a bottle

Another sanity saver for when you just have to get on but your dog needs something to do.

1. Choose a suitable size and type of empty plastic water bottle. Make sure it's the type that crumples—and doesn't split—when you squeeze it.



2. Remove the cap, the plastic ring around the neck of the bottle and the label.



3. Put some of your dog's dry food into the bottle and shake it to get his interest. For the first few tries, add some really smelly titbits too—such as small cubes of cheese or hotdog sausage, so he can smell that good things are inside.

4. Give your dog the bottle and allow him to explore how to get the treats out. Some dogs will shake it, others will roll it around and some like to fling it—so watch out!

Some dogs give up easily if they don't get instant success, while others try to chew their way to the treats. You can help by putting 'easy wins' in the neck of the bottle that tip out without effort.



### Safety First

Supervise your dog carefully when he plays with the treat bottle. Check the bottle for damage and replace it frequently.

## Just like that!

Encouraging your dog to use his brain has a number of benefits. The first is that if you are engaged with him in solving puzzles which you have created, he will be far less likely to go looking for puzzles to solve on his own—such as how to empty the kitchen bin or escape from the garden. The second is that problem solving takes mental effort, and although this is not a substitute for giving your dog physical exercise, it can definitely help to channel energy that would otherwise need to be burned off elsewhere.

I estimate that engaging your dog in enjoyable mind games for twenty minutes can be the equivalent to an hour of physical exercise—and your dog will be happily tired at the end of it.

This is not only useful for young dogs with boundless energy, but also for dogs whose exercise is restricted, perhaps because they have a medical problem. It's also great for laying the foundations of calm focus that dogs with behavioral problems often need.

### Tickle that brain

Start this puzzle by placing the cup or mug upside-down on a rough surface, such as a carpeted area or on a rug. Once your dog is confident with how to solve the mystery of the hidden food, make it more difficult by placing the cup on a hard or slippery surface. The cup will then slide, taking the treat with it, and your dog will have to figure out a new solution.



1. Turn an old cup or mug upside down and let your dog watch you place some really tasty treats underneath. These need to be smelly and tempting, such as tiny bits of cheese or cooked chicken.
2. Try not to help your dog work out how to get the treats. This is meant to challenge his brain after all! If you really have to intervene because your dog is losing interest, then prop the edge of the cup on one of the treats, so that he can smell and taste it. Alternatively, change the treat to a higher grade one.
3. Time how long it takes your dog to work out how to get the treats from under the cup. Some dogs use their noses, others their paws—and one extremely clever Dobermann puppy simply picked up the cup by the handle with his teeth, carefully placed it down, and then ate the treats. Genius!

## What's in the box?

Boxes are a cheap and fun way to create indoor digging puzzles and games for your dog. Always check that whatever boxes you use are free from tape or staples that might cause harm to your dog.

### Indoor digging

Many dogs need to dig. It's not just that they like to—they actually need to. Some breeds such as Dachshunds, for example, were bred to dig when hunting for prey, and this means that the drive is 'hard-wired' in their brains. Other breeds may just go through a digging 'phase,' particularly when they are puppies or adolescents. These dogs may simply be having fun turning your lawn into a golf course and just need an appropriate outlet for their behavior temporarily.

1. Choose a low-sided box and encourage your dog to get in and out so that he feels confident. Click and treat him for doing so.

2. If your dog is a little uncertain about putting his front paws into the box, throw some treats in so that he has to lean in to get them. Resist the urge to pick him up and lift him in—this may put him off even more and also wastes a good opportunity to let him work something out for himself.

3. Now put a few more treats into the box, but this time cover them up with an old towel, some scrunched up paper, or a piece of cardboard about the same size as the floor of the box. Encourage your dog to dig for his reward.

### Hunting and searching

Many dogs just love to hunt and search for things.

You can create hours of fun for your dog by layering smaller boxes inside larger ones, with old towels, or scrunched-up paper in between.

Inside these layers you can hide food treats, toys or chews.

Your dog can then hunt for these treasures to his heart's content. It may make a bit of a mess, but it's easily cleared up in comparison to real-life hunting and digging.



## Indoor hide and seek

Dogs love to search for things, especially those that are rewarding, such as food and toys. Indoor hide and seek can be a great way of teaching your dog to use his nose as well as his eyes to hunt for items—and can be a useful way to exercise his brain when it's raining.

Interestingly, the very act of your dog having to wait while you hide the toy or food also helps him to learn self-control, and can help to improve his “wait” or “stay” behaviors too.

Many dogs have a favorite toy that you can hide for them to find, but if you are just starting out with a puppy or a rehomed dog, it can be easier to start with food hidden inside a container.

### Basics

Fold down the end of a toilet roll tube and pop a couple of delicious, smelly treats inside. Fold down the top. Let your dog sniff the tube so that he knows there's something inside. If you have trained your dog to wait or stay, ask him to do so while you hide the tube somewhere in the



same room. He must not move—that's cheating.

Once you have hidden the tube, walk back to your dog before giving him a release command that tells him to find it. Some dogs may need encouragement, but try to let him find it on his own. As soon as your dog finds the tube, encourage him to fetch it so you can open it and give him the treats.

### Retrieve vs destroy

If your dog is a loo-roll destroyer, try putting the treats into a zip-up furry pencil case instead. He'll need to bring it to you for help with the zip!

### Moving on

Once your dog has got the hang of looking for items in easy hiding places, start to make the game more challenging. You can make him wait in another room while you conceal the treasure, or you can pretend to hide it in one place when really it's somewhere else instead. See how expert your own 'sniffer dog' can become.



## Chewing—what’s hot, what’s not

Chewing a toy with food stuffed inside is a good and manageable mind game for dogs. However, not all chew toys are made the same. Many that we might think would be irresistible are dull as dishwater to dogs, while other items that we wouldn’t even consider to be worthy of a second glance are a dog’s idea of heaven. So, in your dog’s eyes, what’s hot, and what’s not?

### The Kong

King of chew toys, the Kong is indisputably the most robust and enjoyable chewing experience for most dogs. Choose from a range of sizes and toughness (black is the toughest) to suit your dog’s jaw strength and tenacity.

The best thing about the Kong is that it can be stuffed with food to give hours (or at least minutes) of fun. Kong stuffing is an art—here are a couple of suggestions:

#### **Cheese delights**

Press some cheese into the very bottom of the Kong with the back of a teaspoon. Add a smear of marmite or peanut butter to taste.

#### **Doggie freeze-pops**

Cover the outer base of the Kong with cling film. Fill the Kong with wet dog food, or pieces of meat floating in stock or gravy. Place carefully in the freezer. Perfect for those hot summer evenings (in the garden only!)

## Other favorites

Other good chewing items include Nylabones: made from nylon, they are flavoured to make them more appetising and are safe even for strong chewers, but do replace them regularly to ensure that small pieces don’t get chewed off.

Chews made from fish skin are also tasty and safe. They come in a range of shapes, such as rolls and twists, and are edible—good for dogs with sensitive tummies too.



## Best avoided

Although some owners swear by raw-hide chews, they can be problematic. Once soft from chewing, they can become stuck in the back of the dog’s throat, blocking the airway.

Cooked bones should never be fed to dogs as there is a risk of them splintering—which can then cause perforation of the gut.

While it might be tempting to throw sticks for your dog, your vet will be the first to tell you how dangerous this is as throat and mouth injuries caused by sticks are all too common.

## Your dog's on/off switch

Many bright dogs quickly work out that getting human attention is easy. All they have to do is bark, jump up, pick up stolen items and chew things they are not supposed to have. Your dog is managing you instead of you managing him!



### Impulse control

Dogs need to learn that sometimes we have time to play and interact with them and on other occasions they have to quietly amuse themselves. This is called learning 'impulse control.'

One of the ways to teach this is to actively engage your dog in an exciting game, like tug or fetch. Let him enjoy this for a few minutes, then calmly put away the toy with the word "Finish," to let him know that the game has ended.

Sit down and ignore your dog for a few minutes. Let him calm down, then when you are ready, get the toy out and play again. Repeat this until your

dog works out that becoming calm is what triggers the next game.

### Settle down

Your dog needs to learn how to settle down on cue. This is not the same as a formal down stay, but just means that no matter where you are or what's going on, he can lie down patiently and become calm and quiet.

1. Sit down somewhere comfortable, with your dog on a lead beside you. Place your dog's lead firmly under your foot, to limit his options. He should have enough slack to stand up, sit up and lie down, but no more than that.
2. Completely ignore your dog. Some dogs try to get you to interact by barking, chewing the lead, struggling to get away or deliberately getting tangled in the lead. Do not look at him, touch him or talk to him.
3. Eventually, your dog will resign himself and lie down. Praise him gently. Stay like this for a couple of minutes, then quietly say, "Free!" and take off the lead.
4. Repeat this every evening for at least a week until your dog is settling down immediately when you start the routine. Now you can say "Settle down," or "Chill," just before he lies down, as a command.

## Amazing mazes

We all know that mice can be taught to run mazes—so why not your dog? Watching a dog work out how to reach the goal is a fascinating experience and will teach you as much about how your dog learns as it will stretch your dog's mind.

The construction of your maze will depend on a number of factors: the size of your dog, whether you are setting up the maze indoors or out, and how experienced your dog is at problem solving.

Starting indoors with a fairly simple maze is a sensible strategy as you need to be able to keep your dog relatively calm to begin with. Outdoors, he may be tempted to get over-excited and try to jump the maze walls rather than think his way round the problem.

Mazes can be created from any number of materials: mesh panels (available from garden centers and DIY stores) are perfect because you

can tie them together and your dog can see the booty that he is aiming for. However, you can easily make mazes using lengths of cardboard or by placing your furniture strategically to create maze shapes. For example, two dining room chairs laid on their sides provide lots of possibilities—three and you can have infinite maze creations.

1. Set up your maze.
2. Place some goodies or a toy that your dog really wants at the end of the maze.
3. Keep your dog on a lead if he wants to jump the sides or tries to knock the walls over.
4. Let your dog work out how to get to the goal, and praise him when he does. Once he's mastered going in, you can place the treats or toy on the outside of the maze and let him find them that way.

### Who moved my cheese?

Once your dog gets the concept of how to work through a maze to eat the food, it's up to you to prove that you have the superior brain by coming up with new and different formations. Create 'blind alleys' and dead ends to really get your dog thinking about how to solve the puzzle.



## Targeting

Targeting expands your dog's behavioral repertoire unlike any other exercise. Teaching him to touch his nose or paw—or any other part of his body—onto a specified target can be the gateway to an infinite number of other behaviors. Using targeting, you can teach basics such as come when called or heelwork, or more unusual tricks like closing doors, pressing buttons or even limping on cue!

### Getting started

Getting started with target training couldn't be easier. In the first exercise, your dog is going to learn to touch his nose to an object.

You will need to be prepared in advance, so have your treats, the target you are going to use, and a clicker—or clicker word—ready and waiting. This is important because the very first time your dog sees the target his impulse will be to sniff it—and you want to be ready to click to tell him he's done the right thing. In other words, don't miss this first opportunity!

### On target

At the outset, your dog might be tempted to try and grab your target rather than just touch it, so suitable targets to use are:

- A margarine lid
- A beer mat
- A post-it note
- The end of a wooden spoon

Once he's an expert, you can move on to using your hand as a target, a piece of paper-based masking tape stuck to a vertical surface, or a purpose-bought target stick.

1. Present the target at nose level, to the side of your dog's head. The chances are he'll turn to sniff it.
2. Click (or say your clicker word) the split second your dog touches the target with his nose, then reward.
3. You need to be fast on the click to give your dog information that it was touching the target that won the treat, and also to prevent him from grabbing the target with his teeth.
4. Practice until your dog is confidently bumping the target with his nose to get the reward. Add the cue to prompt the behavior by saying "Touch." You can then make it more challenging by moving the target so that it is held further away, higher, lower, or propped up at a distance.



## Having fun with targeting

Progress with your dog's targeting skills and you can challenge him to move further to touch the target, touch different objects, touch the target for longer or touch with a different part of his body. However, be careful that you only change one factor at a time and work on that until it is accurate before asking for another progression.

### Hand touching

You can teach your dog to touch your hand in exactly the same way as you did with a separate target.

Choose either the palm of your hand, or the back of it, and present it slightly to the side of your dog's head—then keep it still. As your dog turns to look or sniff, click and treat. Practice until it's perfect and then add the cue word, "Touch" to this target as well.

Hand targeting is ideal for re-training 'selectively deaf' dogs to come in from the garden when they are told. Instead of calling, you can ask your dog to touch, hold out your hand and he should come running for his reward.

Hand targeting can also be useful for increasing confidence in shy dogs by giving them an instruction when they feel unsure—such as in the vet's waiting room or in a busy area. In this sort of situation giving the dog something to do that he feels confident with—and finds fun—can help to alter his emotional state and get him thinking instead of feeling anxious.

### Push the ball

Show a ball to most dogs and they'll try to pick it up. However, if you want to play football with your dog without him bursting it—or take part in a new dog sport such as 'treibball' where the dog needs to push the ball—then you need to train him to push the ball, not bite it.



1. Start with a ball that is too large for your dog to pick up, but won't burst easily. Don't put the ball on the floor—instead hold it in front of you, at your dog's head height.
2. Ask your dog to "touch." Click the instant that your dog comes forward to sniff the ball, then give him a treat. You need to be quick so that you click before he has had a chance to open his mouth!
3. Practice this until he is bumping the ball in your hands. Only then can you start to lower the ball gradually towards the floor, clicking and treating for accurate nudges.

## Outdoor pursuits

### Racing circuits

Here's a way to improve your dog's recall, plus make using food into a fun, fast game.



1. Using a piece of food, lure your dog round the back of your legs. This is an important rule, as it ensures that he always comes right back to you.

2. Now lure him round to your left side by passing the food to your other hand. Make sure you stand still while he moves around you.

3. Now throw the food in a straight line away from you. Encourage your dog to chase out after it. You may need to start with just a short distance so that he sees where the food has gone, but you'll soon be able to throw the food further.

4. The instant your dog has eaten the treat, call him back to you. Make lots of noise, be exciting and show him that you have another piece of food for him. Lure him round your legs and start again.

### High rewards

For some dogs that are not very 'foodie,' but enjoy running, this game can really increase their levels of motivation. The game itself can be a

reward for other behaviors—such as heelwork.

You can also mix and match racing circuits with target training—teaching your dog to race back to you, touch your hand, then race round your legs and out to get the food again.



## Basic tracking

Teaching your dog to track is a unique training experience for two reasons. The first is that your dog—no matter what breed, size or type—is already an expert in this field. The second is that once your dog has got the hang of following a scent to an end goal, he is very much in charge—and all you have to do is hang on to the other end of the line and enjoy the ride!

Good tracking is dependent on teamwork. Your dog needs to know that there's something worthwhile at the end of the track, while you need to be patient and let your dog follow his nose without too much interference.

1. In your garden, or even in a quiet area in a park, tether your dog or have someone hold him so that he can watch, but not reach you.
2. Open a pot of treats and show your dog what is in it, then put the lid back on and walk in a straight line away from your dog. Take only five paces, then stop, talk to your dog, tease him a little with the pot of food and place it down on the ground between your feet, then re-trace your steps back to your dog.
3. Hold the lead with one hand, and with the other indicate where the dog should sniff in the grass in order to follow the start of the trail.



### You will need:

- A harness (cheap & cheerful)
- A long lead or line (minimum of 4ft)
- A small pot with a lid

4. Let your dog track (or run) to the pot. Open the lid and let him eat the food. At this stage it doesn't matter if he just dashes to the pot, or uses his eyes to find it—using his nose will come naturally when the track is longer or the grass is taller.

5. Gradually increase the distance that your dog has to actually track to find the food pot. Then try more challenging terrain such as long grass.

### Harnessing the power

Traditionally, dogs are worked in a harness when tracking. This is because ultimately the dog will pull into the harness in his enthusiasm to follow the scent trail. Having it put on also becomes a signal to the dog that he's about to go tracking, so it's a good idea to start this habit early.

## Tricks!

Tricks may seem frivolous to us, but to your dog they are just another fun training exercise. I like to teach tricks that amuse, amaze or have a practical purpose.

### Rollover



1. Ask your dog to lie down. Watch to see that he rolls onto one hip, rather than lying in a ‘sphinx’ position.



2. Hold a piece of food tightly between finger and thumb and move it down and round, aiming for the corner of his mouth. Watch for his paw coming up, over your hand, as his body starts to roll.



3. Follow through with your hand, keeping the food right by the corner of your dog’s mouth as he rolls. Click and treat when he’s upright.



4. Practice until your dog is really confident rolling over. Now try the same routine, but without having the food in your hand. Finally, you can cue the behavior by saying, “Rollover,” just before moving your hand to prompt it.

#### **Rollover benefits**

This trick teaches dogs to concentrate, to resist grabbing food and to control their body movements.

## Look! My dog can read

This trick relies on the fact that your dog already sits or lies down on cue. The idea is that instead of saying “Sit,” you can show your dog a sign which cues the behavior instead—giving the impression that your dog can read!

Introducing the sign as a cue is simple—you just have to present it before you use your old cue of saying “Sit,” or “Down.” This is the same with any new cue. For example, if you wanted to teach your dog to come when you whistle, rather than call, you would simply give a blast on the whistle, then call, and reward as usual. Very soon your dog would be coming to you just on the sound of the whistle.

1. Get your clicker and treats ready. Present your Sit sign and then immediately ask your dog to sit. Click and treat. Remove the sign and move your dog’s position. Now present the sign again and repeat your verbal cue to sit. Click and treat when he does.



2. Keep practicing! At some point (usually after 4-6 repetitions), your dog will sit as soon as you present the sign, before you have said the word. Click and give a jackpot! (More than one food treat at once.)

3. Your dog now sits when he sees the new cue. Practice this in various places so it’s perfect.



### Doggie dictionary

Make sure that your signs for different behaviors look distinct. Your dog will be ‘reading’ the pattern on the page, not the actual word (!), so use a different font, size—or a pattern around the word to help your dog differentiate between sit and down.

## Canine geniuses

If your dog is the canine equivalent of a budding Einstein, it's up to you to keep on challenging his brain—or live with the consequences of his own creativity.

Puzzle balls, activity feeders and even board games are now available commercially to provide mental stimulation for your dog. Most of them dispense food in one form or another, and your dog needs to work out how to get the toy to pay out. Nearly all these games require close supervision and are definitely an activity to engage in with your dog rather than leaving him to entertain himself.

In the same vein, but with even more creative possibility, is the art of 'free-shaping'—whereby your dog can learn a new task by simply trying out various behaviors and discovering whether he gets rewarded for them or not.

## The 101 game

This game is all about imagination—yours and your dog's. The idea is for your dog to voluntarily come up with new behaviors with common household items and for you to mark and reward them.

Using a clicker is ideal as it's so specific, but you can use a 'clicker word,' such as "Wow," or "Yep," instead. Avoid using the words "Good," or "Good boy," simply because we all say these a hundred times a day when we are just being affectionate towards our dogs.

### 101 uses for a J-cloth

Take a new, clean J-cloth. Tie a knot right in the middle of it, and offer it to your dog. Click and treat for: retrieving it, catching it, balancing it on his nose, dropping it in a basket... and any other imaginative ideas he might have.

### 101 uses for a piece of masking tape

You can:

- Stick it to a wall and ask your dog to touch it.
- Place it on the floor and send him to lie down on it.
- Use it as a target for paw touches.
- Put it on the back of a door, so that he bumps it closed with his nose.
- Stick it to his paw so you can click and treat paw lifting (or limping!) Ahh!
- Lightly stick it to his fur so he turns his head, scratches, or looks at it.

For safety reasons, always use a paper-based tape.



## Take the IQ test

So you think your dog has the best canine brain in the land? Take this fun IQ test to find out if he's a clever canine or a doggie dunce.

### The shell game

You will need:

- Three cups
- Some food treats
- A stopwatch



#### The test:

With your dog in a sit stay, place a treat under one of the cups, and then mix them up. Tell him to find, and then start the stop watch.

#### The results:

Less than 5 seconds—score 10  
Less than 10 seconds—score 5  
Less than 30 seconds—score 1

### Through the maze

You will need:

- Cardboard boxes or mesh panels
- Some food treats or a toy
- A stopwatch

#### The test:

Use your imagination to build a maze. Ask your dog to sit stay, while you place the 'prize' at the end point. Release him and start the stop watch. How long does it take your dog to reach the toy or titbit?

#### The results:

Less than 5 seconds—score 10  
Less than 10 seconds—score 5  
Less than 30 seconds—score 1

### Treasure hunt

You will need:

- Some treats
- Toilet roll tube
- Stop watch

#### The test:

Put some treats inside an empty toilet roll tube. Fold the ends of the tube down. Show this to your dog, and allow him to sniff it thoroughly. Ask your dog to stay in one room, while you hide the tube in another. Release your dog to search for the tube, and count the number of seconds that it takes him to find it.

#### The results:

Less than 5 seconds—score 10  
Less than 10 seconds—score 5  
Less than 30 seconds—score 1

### Genius, or could do better?

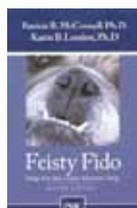
Add all three scores together:

25 or more: he's a genius!

15—24: very bright

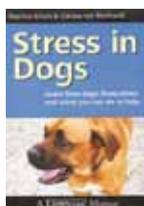
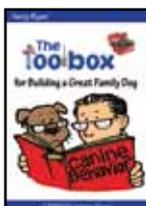
5—15: remedial work required

Less than 5: uh oh!



**Dogwise Publishing** is devoted to bringing cutting edge, scientifically sound information on canine behavior, health, training—and sometimes just plain fun to the dog-loving public.

**Dogwise.com** is the world's best source for everything educational and fun about dogs! With more than 2,500 books, dvds, toys and training tools for the dog owner, trainer, breeder, veterinarian or vet tech, you won't need to look any further than Dogwise.com for Great Dog Info.



## Dogwise Solutions for the Family Dog

Dogs are part of the family. Like any family, everybody needs to get along. Dogwise Publishing can help you do that—without force, making it fun, and with great results. Here are some great choices that will help you smooth out the rough spots and solve common human-dog misunderstandings. Make living with your dog better with Dogwise Solutions.

**Dogwise**<sup>™</sup>  
Publishing

403 South Mission Street  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

ISBN 9781617810633



9 781617 810633

[www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com) 800-776-2665