

These are great exercises to build impulse control and appropriate behaviour during interactive games. Teaching your dog to release an item on cue will enable you to control the game and reduce arousal levels.

Take it and Give

INSTRUCTIONS

- Step one:** Present a rope toy to your dog and encourage him or her to take hold of the toy. Do not verbalise anything at this point.
- Step two:** Present a treat in a closed fist close near your dog's nose, this should prompt him or her to release the toy and accept the treat.
- Step three:** When you are sure your dog will take the toy in his or her mouth and release it when presented with a treat, you can add the verbal cue "take it" and "give".



Swap

INSTRUCTIONS - TOYS ONLY

- Step one:** Use two rope toys. Present your dog with one and encourage him or her to take hold of the toy. Now you can play a game of tug!
- Step two:** You then drop the toy they are holding and pick up the other toy, encourage them to take a hold of that one and play.
- Step three:** When your dog is reliably dropping the first toy when you pick up the second toy, you can add the verbal cue "swap".

TIPS



If your dog is showing signs of resource guarding, please seek the advice of a qualified behavioural trainer. For example, if your dog displays aggression around toys and treats.

If your dog is more interested in toys/play than they are in food then try using another toy to swap.