

Training Tip Tuesday: Couch Games

Some days all I want to do is sit on the couch! So I have a number of games that I can do sitting down, that are quick and easy. In keeping with our recall theme this month; here are two games to teach your dog to *love* his leash and collar. It's a simple matter of positive association; pairing the item with an awesome reward. If your dog loves his equipment; you won't be chasing him around to hook him up. (You've all seen it – that person at the park that calls their dog in to them; and the dog stops just an inch out of reach and bobs all over to avoid actually getting caught) Having a great recall should involve actually making contact with the dog. If you have something he loves (like his leash!) it makes this easy.

1) Love your Leash – It doesn't get much easier than this. All you have to do is click the snap on the leash with one hand, and offer a treat to your dog with the other. I start by clicking a few feet just in front of the dog; then work up to clicking next to and all around. You'll see in the video within a few clicks Kod is looking for his leash and nosing it. No ducking and diving away here!

2) Get Dressed – Letting your dog play an active role in putting his equipment on has a lot of psychological value. It's also quite helpful when you have your hands full! You can teach it with a collar, a harness, a vest – whatever you need your dog to wear. The goal is to have him actively push his head through the opening to make placing his collar on very easy!

If you have a crazy dog that loses his mind every time you pick up the leash; this will help establish some control. He has to slow down to *think* about putting his collar on, and you can add a sit and wait. If you establish control before you walk out the door – there is a much greater chance you will retain some control on the other side!

<https://youtu.be/7UJsH9Zp4tk>