



### Week 3: Continuing to Add Levels To The Picture

This week we will build off of last week's foundation exercises to add in different configurations and new items in the search area. Place random objects with no real value or importance in the search area to generalize the search (i.e. bucket, shoes, towel, etc). Note, if your dog is having an issue leaving something like shoes alone then don't bring that element into the search. Think ordinary and boring.

Things to consider:

- Are you encouraging independence in your practice?:
  - Is your dog distracted by your voice or movement?
  - Does your dog work differently on or off the leash?
  - Does your dog want to start searching right at the start? Are they too overstimulated?
  - How far away from you will the dog search?
- Expand the environment by adding things besides boxes
- Change the environment (option to change surfaces like add a carpet or rug and/or work in other rooms)

#### EXERCISES/ACTIVITY: Box Work and more

##### Round 1 Box work

- Boxes are amidst other environmental objects
- One or multiple hides, but hides in boxes \*\*\*\*\*We are still working with food in the boxes!

##### Round 2 Box Work

This is another review round with environmental objects to the search area

- Hides in things other than boxes, but boxes present (start adding in buckets, bowls, shopping bags, etc)

##### Round 3 Box work

This is another review round with environmental objects to the search area but hides may be anywhere

- Boxes are amidst other environmental objects
- One or multiple hides, hides in OR out of boxes
- Off-leash

##### Round 4 Box Work

If time allows, do a round with just boxes again. Keep it simple but finish strong by placing the food in the boxes

- Change environment/location
- Enter through a different door
- Off-leash
- One hide

Continue box work with several (single and multiple) hides inside and outside the boxes. Work both on and off-leash whenever possible. Encourage training in several new places but still avoid dirt and grass. By now you should be able to identify and describe your dog's change in behavior (COB) as it approaches and gets to odor.

It is critical to practice the foundation steps and should not move forward too fast. Set up training scenarios where the dog will be successful, will gain the confidence that they can work it out themselves, and will not rely on you for help. You are there to support the dog and give the dog an opportunity to access the reward.

**Train, don't test.**