



Week 6: Bringing birch into the picture and working exteriors

This class introduces birch to the program and we will discuss exteriors. We will be working outdoors if the weather allows. Please dress/plan accordingly.

- Discussion: each handler describes one search they set up for the last week's homework
 - Reminder: it is important to work in multiple places so the dog generalizes the search behavior in other locations
- Discuss working outdoors and making a plan to allow the dog to potty BEFORE entering the search area
- Discuss key benchmarks for proceeding to odor (or moving to Level 2)
- Change search area to exterior searches or completely different area indoors
- Return to only boxes in the new area (5-7 boxes)
- Create focus in potentially more distracting environment

EXERCISES/ACTIVITY: Box Work and more

*******ONLY USE ONE TIN PER EXERCISE TO KEEP THE DOG ENGAGED AND NOT OVERWHELMED**

Round 1 Box Work

This round and session starts with doing boxes with birch

- Begin session just like first class. Have the dog watch the first hide being placed in a box. Set expectations
- Once dog is searching remember to keep the conversation to a minimum, don't get in their way, mark/treat/play at the find
- On-leash

Round 2 Box Work: Repeats the round, but hide or hides are pre-set

- Keep searches short and simple
- On-leash, but experiment with leash length

Round 3 Box Work: Repeats the round, but hide or hides are pre-set

- Try a different area, or half indoors, half outdoors (if weather allows)
- Change the type of boxes or container
- On-leash

Round 4 Box Work: Repeats the round, but hide or hides are pre-set

- Add box puzzles (stacked or nested boxes, tighter boxes, boxes elevated on other boxes)
- On-leash

Homework

Train in new areas both indoors and outdoors. Searches should include hides in the boxes, outside the boxes, and without boxes (once the context for searching has been established.). Elevation should still be no higher than nose level.

Handlers may start setting up box searches on grass or dirt as long as they are quick and easy.

Session Wrap Up: Explain how the Level 2 class will progress.