

SHERLOCK BONES  
SCENT WORK



SNIFF. SOLVE. REPEAT

#### **Week 4: Working As A Team**

This week we will continue to use the elements of weeks one thru three and add in some more environmental challenges like different floor surfaces (tarp, blanket, grate), distraction odors (food and/or cat nip), and for the more confident dogs, some background noises (busy airport, music, weather, etc). This is a great week to video tape your searches so you can watch your dog's body language AND yours as well.

We are going to add in reverse pairing this week. The odor will NOT be added to your box searches this week, we will incorporate them into week five.

Make a note of:

- How is your dog's focus when there is an environmental change?
- Describing your dog's COBs (changes of behavior) – What do you see?
- Add difficulty to searches (harder to access hides, deep under a chair, slightly elevated, a baby gate partially blocking hide). Dog has to make more effort to self-reward
- Note your dogs' body language; changes in breathing, head turn/head snaps, and pace for discussion following the searches

#### **EXERCISES/ACTIVITY**

##### **Round 1 Box Work**

- Place hides that challenge the dog to self-reward but are still within reach; use the visual of an open box with a hide behind a baby gate partially blocking access for example (make sure they can still get to the source)
- Toss a reward into the open box if the dog shows reluctance to go around the barrier
- Off-leash search to allow the dog the freedom to problem solve

**Round 2 Box Work:** This round repeats concepts of round 1, but move objects or environment

- Conduct searches on AND off leash for variation

**Round 3 Box Work:** This round is the same as round 2 but adjusts difficulty based on previous rounds, add/remove visual aid of boxes

- Conduct searches on or off leash
- Note aloud the changes of behavior, start using search terms (search, get to work, too far, alert, etc)

##### **Round 4 Search**

This round is the same as round 3 but with no boxes in environment

- Distribute environmental objects in larger area
- Hide the food in an environmental object such as a bowl on its side or something similar in shape to a box

#### **Homework**

We are going to focus on reverse pairing as homework to be done on alternate days from box work. Please see the video on the student support page about reverse pairing if you are struggling. You should continue box work with added objects. Go to three to five different locations to practice with boxes and objects that are naturally in the environment (like someone's garage).

**Train, don't test.**