



Week 2- What is K9 Nose Work?

Our goal is to introduce the boxes as a container and pair them with treats to create a self-rewarding system of value with the box. This is to encourage your dog to be more independent, confident, and curious to allow them more freedom to work independently from you during searches.

Things to consider:

If you are training alone you may have to set up your practice sessions with some creativity, such as

- Start by moving freely with the dog and playing the game while the dog runs loose
- Crate the dog, or put them behind a gate to allow you to preload the food/toy box
- Students should get five or six of their own open containers (boxes, shoe boxes, Amazon boxes)
 - Include a variety of sizes and boxes with and without flaps or a cover to add difficulty
 - Having stackable or nesting containers (like plastic shoe boxes or low-profile buckets) is handy for taking it on the road. Make sure to spend time with primarily cardboard boxes because are part of the foundation for container searches
- It is important to continue the box work as done in class until we move on to adding in odor
- Choose a low-distraction, safe, secure and preferably familiar environment for early practice
 - As skills increase, practice in at least 5 different locations (friend's garage, secure parking lot, an office, or five different areas at their homes, but avoid grassy outdoor or distracting areas. Select locations that provide the most control over the environment.

If your dog lives in a multiple-dog household, play the game away from other resident dogs and pets!

The "Box Game"

Round 1 Box Work

- Drop the dog's treats in a box, visible to the dog, and place it on the ground and step away
 - Allow the dog to go to the box and eat
 - Either allow the dog to continue investigating other boxes, or move dog away and repeat
 - If the dog continues sniffing, reload that box or another box
 - If your dog is a toy reward dog, toss the toy into a box and allow the dog to chase, grab, or retrieve the toy after the last box
- Repeat several times, or work one long session (typically for about 2 to 5 minutes)
- Dogs are out of the room before setting up for next round

Rounds 2 (3,4) Box work

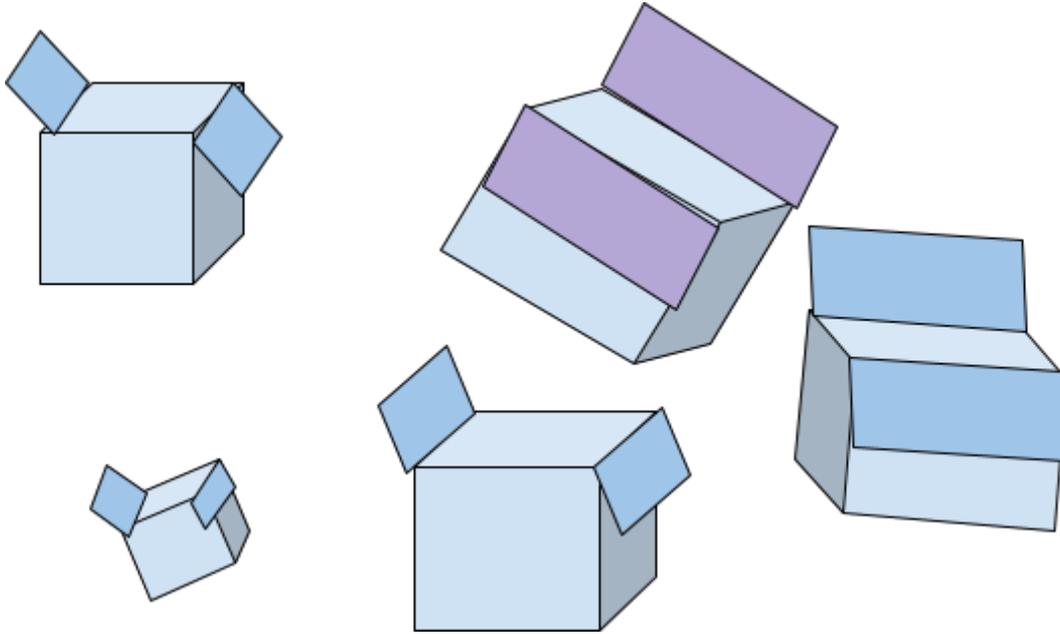
Repeat work with the boxes, with the aim to keep focus on the boxes

- Keep this session shorter so that the dog leaves wanting more
 - If the dog is focused and intense, add more box puzzles (box within box, or box slightly covering another box)
- NOTE: This round may be a repeat of the first two, or depending on the results, more options could be added.

OPTIONS:

- Off-leash (only if the dog has focus and can be redirected away from distractions)
- Move the game to a new room the dog typically does not work in

Early Box Configuration- boxes are open with flaps hanging so the dog gets used to movement around the search area. At this point you can stagger the configuration with placement and number of boxes used. Remember if the box is a bit too tall for your dog you can lay it on its side and toss treats into it in that position.



Box set up for after week two- switch to more of a line when setting up the boxes and if your dog is really doing well you can set up the practice session to use two lines of boxes. Boxes are still open with flaps out at this point.

