

Double Retrieves--March 22, 2009

I am still using the training box at this point, but I am stimulating Brea's brain by trying to varying the degrees of difficulty of the retrieves.

Step2

Utilizing the ball launcher, I throw the first ball up hill towards the camera. I tell Brea to "leave it"

Step3



Then I turn around and throw a ball away from the camera, making sure she turns her body along with me. I again command Brea to leave the second ball.

Step4



I then turn my body back in the direction of the first retrieve. I send Brea on her name"Brea."

I use my hand to "direct" Brea which direction I'd like her to go.



Step6



Step7



Step8



Brea has spotted the retrieve. If Brea had not seen the retrieve, I would consider making a shorter retrieve. I would call her back to the box, pick up the balls myself and start over.

On the retrieve.





Step11







I tap the box as I usually do on Brea's return.

Be sure to touch Brea's head to let her know she's done well and assure her.

On completion of the first retrieve, I turn in the direction of the second retrieve. I tell Brea to "mark". What I am looking for is a perking of her ears, basically an acknowledgment of the memory retrieve. When I see this, I send her on "back", as opposed to her name. This command will play great dividends later in life.

Brea is leaving the box for the 2nd retrieve. Because I saw her ears perk, I am fairly sure she knows where the ball is.



Step14



Step15







As Brea goes for the retrieve, if I thought she didn't know where the ball was, I would consider throwing a ball over her head to be sure she was rewarded. But, in this case, I think she is already spotted the ball.

It might be important to keep in mind that the 2nd ball you throw should be a fairly easy retrieve when you begin this drill.

Brea has found the retrieve and begins to bring the ball back.



Step18



Step19



Tap the box if Brea wanders on the retrieve or looks like she isn't coming straight back.

It's time to be sure Brea makes a proper presentation when she returns with the retrieve. So, tell her to "hup" before taking the tennis ball. Be sure to tell her "good job."