

Fetch Cue



Steps:

1. If necessary, begin each fetch game with the dog on-leash.
2. Use a fetch toy that has a short rope or thick string securely attached to it (there are many ready-made toys available).
3. With the dog on your left side, present the toy a few inches in front of her mouth so she must reach out to grab it.
4. Move it around her face (about 2 to 3 inches from her muzzle) and just before her mouth grasps the toy, say "Fetch" in a happy, excited, and upbeat voice.
5. As her mouth grasps the toy, say "yes".
6. Take a step back so that the dog turns toward you while she is holding onto the toy.
7. Take a few more steps back so that she starts walking toward you. Use the rope attached to the toy to keep a small amount of tension between you and the dog as you move. If necessary, use her leash (if worn) to happily coax her to continue coming toward you.
8. Back up a few feet and then stop and play a short game of tug with the dog.
9. Say "yes" and then offer the dog a treat or another toy to get her to drop the original toy. Let her play with the new toy as a reward.

Hand signal: There is no hand signal for this cue.

Verbal cue: "fetch"/ "Get it."



Continue practicing until a dog responds to the Fetch cue, by grasping and holding the toy with her mouth, following you, and then releasing it when presented with another toy or reward 90 percent of the time. Then proceed to pairing this cue with drop it.

