

Movement puzzle training steps

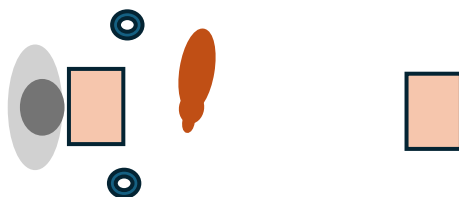
Work on a non-slip surface. Each session = 2 min. or less (SET A TIMER!)

	Me sitting- Pair “dish” with treat in a bowl, then add a second bowl next to it
	Gradually spread the 2 bowls apart- move with foot as pup is eating from other bowl
	Mark a glance toward the other bowl, then a step, then 2 steps
	Repeat above steps with me standing
	When pup is confidently moving between the bowls, add an obstacle

ADDING THE FIRST OBSTACLE Set up the training space with a box that is your dog’s shoulder height or higher and set it at least a dog LENGTH away from the bowls. Farther away is better, especially if you think your dog might react to the special pressure. Going between the boxes should not be the ONLY option, but it should be the most likely option the dog picks. Increase the space between the boxes if the dog shows signs of stress. You don’t want to pair stress with the obstacle!



	When pup is comfortable, add a 2 nd box at my feet
--	---



	Make the gap between the boxes smaller by moving the box at my feet away from me
	Repeat with different obstacles or add obstacles/surfaces to the pattern

Some reasons the dog might choose the short cut more than once-

- Fatigue – Straight line is easier on his body. Be sure you haven’t let the session go to long. Maybe give the dog a day of rest.
- Distance stress- the dog may be telling you that moving away from you, to go out around the box, is too stressful for him.
- Environmental pressure- It might also be that the space between the boxes is getting uncomfortable.
- Handler movement- Do a self-check to make sure you aren’t moving before the dog and drawing him into you.

Try staying at a distance the dog is correct and comfortable with for a few sessions. The extra practice of the correct path can help make the deviation feel wrong to the dog.