



# FRIENDLY CREATURES

Your solution to animal behavioural problems

## Retrieve:



This behaviour is easier to think of as three separate behaviours taught separately. First the chase and pick up, then the recall and then the "Give". Start in the house or garden and encourage the dog to mouth and take a toy in his mouth. Then offer a different favourite toy, or treat so that the dog opens his mouth inadvertently releasing the first toy. Then add the word "Give" as he releases and the toy falls into your hand.

Once the dog enjoys the "Give" game put the dog on a long line and encourage the dog to chase and pick up balls and other toys. Gradually throw the ball away from him, and mark any attempt at coming back to you

with the ball with "Good!" and treat, before he drops it. Then wait for him to come nearer to you before you say "Good!" to shape the behaviour of returning all the way to you with the ball. Eventually he doesn't hear "Good!" and get a treat until he has come all the way to you and put the ball in your hand. Avoid walking towards him. If he regresses, start over rewarding less accurate "retrieves".

When you're outside, play retrieve on a long line, so he can't run off with the ball. Use your retrieve game to keep the focus on you when approaching your dog's favourite distractions (eg. the risky rabbit areas or other dogs). Ensure he always brings the ball right back to you and puts it in your hand before rewarding. By having a solid retrieve you have the option of using it to exercise him anywhere and knowing he will be back with you after each run and chase.