



Paws Pocket

“It is really important that you teach your dog how to use their Paws Pocket properly. This means that they can open it quickly to get their reward without having to wait for you to catch up to them. The Paws Pocket is perfect for food driven dogs to be able to locate their reward quickly wherever you have thrown it. It is far more practical than trying to throw individual treats out for them to find.”

Step 1

Open all Velcro sections of the toy and place the toy flat on the floor with the sides down flat. Place a piece of kibble in the centre of the toy and let your dog find it.



Repeat this several times until your dog really understands where to find the food and is really actively going straight there to get to the treat – or most likely not moving away from there long enough to let you put the next treat in there!



Step 2

Ever so slightly pinch together the base of two of the side pieces and repeat step 1, it is unlikely at this point that your dog will even touch or notice the difference.



Continue to feed a few treats one after another from the centre of the toy, throwing a piece of kibble away between every couple of treats simply to move your dog away from the toy so that they come back to find the next one. Gradually pinch more and more of the Velcro together on those two pieces until two segments of the toy are fully stuck together all the way to the top and your dog is happily pushing their nose into the centre to get to the food.

Taming Canines is run by Hayley Laches. Hayley is renowned worldwide for her distance handling skills in both Hoopers and Agility. Hayley is the head trainer at Canine Hoopers UK – responsible for teaching the Accredited Instructors Courses working in association with the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers. Whilst Taming Canines is based in South Lincolnshire, UK, through their online courses, people from around the world have benefitted from the training.

Step 3

As long as your dog is happy and confidently still finding the food correctly and quickly, repeat step 2 but with the third segment of the toy. Be careful to only pinch the Velcro along one side of this segment to start with, although it will get harder to only stick one side of this segment the higher you get.

Continue in this manner until the toy is fully closed up and your dog is happily pushing their nose into the centre of the closed segments in order to reach the food in the middle of the toy. At this point start to really squeeze the Velcro harder and harder so your dog is really having to push the toy open – this is important as if the Velcro isn't closed properly, the toy may open enough for the food to fly out once you are throwing the toy.



Step 4

Place a piece of food inside the toy and fully close it. Before allowing your dog to have access to it, place it on its side. It is important that your dog learns how to find the opening as well as how to open it otherwise your dog may get both frustrated and bored and then may lose interest in this training aid.

As your dog gets better at finding the centre, roll the toy onto different sides so sometimes it is facing them and sometimes not.

Once your dog is really confident, start rolling the toy across the floor and letting your dog chase after the toy in order to get their reward out. By this point your dog should be pretty enthusiastic about chasing after his toy to get to his food.

It's very important that you don't rush your dog through these steps. A couple of repetitions a couple of times a week might be all you need to start with until your dog starts to get a bit more interested in playing the game.



PawsPockets available to order online at www.pawstrading.co.uk