

find it!

Step 1

Introduce the Behaviour

Start by throwing a large high value treat on the ground - making sure your dog sees where the food lands.

When throwing the food, create a wide and low sweeping action with your arm. After a few repetitions, throw several treats on the ground and close together. Soon your dog will naturally begin using their nose to find the treats. Continue until your dog is consistently using his nose and not his eyes!



Step 2

Assign a Cue

Now that your dog is using his nose to find the treat you're going to do the exact same exercise again but this time adding a cue word to the action. You can use whatever word you like. This will signal to your dog when the search is on and to start hunting.

Step 3

Proof the Behaviour

Once your dog is responding to the cue you can now begin proofing this new skill. Repeat the first step again by throwing a piece of food out that they can see. However this time you are going to simultaneously throw another piece of food out that they can't see. Once they've found the first piece of food, give them the cue word to find the second piece. They should start using their nose straight away to begin searching for the food.

top tip...

Once your dog is becoming more proficient you can progress to setting up small search areas. Hide three or four pieces of food and allow them to search the area, giving them lots of praise when they find a treat. This will keep them busy, tire them out and is a great way to mentally stimulate your dog.

