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# 101 PET PARENTING
# MASTER DOG ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY MENU
## Trainer Selection Guide

### ACTIVITY CATEGORIES

**1. SHREDDING & DISSECTION**

For dogs who enjoy tearing, pulling apart, unpacking, and investigating.

**2. PREY DRIVE: STALK • CHASE • CAPTURE**

For dogs who enjoy watching movement, stalking, chasing, catching, carrying, or shaking toys.

**3. SNIFFING & SCENT SEARCH**

For dogs who love using their nose to investigate and locate hidden things.

**4. FORAGING & FOOD PUZZLES**

For dogs who enjoy working, manipulating objects, and searching for food.

**5. DIGGING & BURROWING**

For dogs who naturally paw, dig, tunnel, uncover, or excavate.

**6. LICKING, CHEWING & ORAL ENRICHMENT**

For dogs who relax or stay engaged through licking, chewing, crunching, and food extraction.

**7. INTERACTIVE PLAY & SOCIAL GAMES**

For dogs who are most enriched by doing something together with their person.

**8. EXPLORATION, CONFIDENCE & PROBLEM-SOLVING**

For curious dogs and dogs who benefit from safe novelty, choices, and independent investigation.

**9. GUARDIAN, WATCHING & 'JOB' ACTIVITIES**

Especially useful for livestock-guardian and watchful breeds; reinforce calm observation rather than confrontation.

**10. CALMING & INDEPENDENT ENRICHMENT**

For quieter engagement, decompression, settling, and appropriate independent activity.

## SHREDDING & DISSECTION

**TEAR • RIP • PULL • UNPACK • SEARCH • SOLVE**

**Purpose:** Provide safe outlets for dogs who enjoy tearing, pulling apart, unpacking and investigating materials.

### ☐ 1. TREASURE SHREDDING BOX

**You need:** Clean cardboard box + plain paper + treats or toy

**1.** Place treats or a favorite toy in a clean cardboard box.

**2.** Loosely add crumpled plain paper around the treasure.

**3.** Leave the box open at first.

**4.** Let the dog sniff, paw, pull and shred to reach the reward.

**Make it harder:** Nest a smaller open box inside a larger box.

### ☐ 2. CARDBOARD TUBE CRACKERS

**You need:** Empty cardboard tubes + treats

**1.** Place a few treats inside a paper-towel or toilet-paper tube.

**2.** Loosely fold the ends inward.

**3.** Let the dog manipulate or tear the tube to reach the food.

**Make it easier:** Leave one end open at first.

### ☐ 3. PAPER PARCEL UNWRAPPING

**You need:** Plain paper + toy or treats

**1.** Loosely wrap a toy or treats in plain paper.

**2.** Do not use tape, ribbon or string.

**3.** Place the parcel on the floor or inside an open box.

**4.** Let the dog unwrap and discover the prize.

**Tip:** Keep wrapping loose enough for easy success.

### ☐ 4. SHRED-AND-SNUFFLE BIN

**You need:** Shallow box + crumpled paper + kibble/treats

**1.** Fill a shallow box with loosely crumpled paper.

**2.** Scatter food through the layers.

**3.** Let the dog sniff, nose, paw and shred while searching.

**Make it harder:** Hide food at different depths.

### ☐ 5. CARDBOARD DEMOLITION STACK

**You need:** Several clean lightweight boxes + treats

**1.** Remove tape, staples, plastic and labels.

**2.** Loosely stack or nest the boxes.

**3.** Place treats between some layers.

**4.** Let the dog dismantle the setup.

**Safety:** Keep the stack low, light and easy to pull apart.

**SNIFF • STALK • CHASE • CAPTURE • EXTRACT • CARRY • SHAKE**

**Purpose:** Provide appropriate opportunities to stalk, chase, capture and extract while keeping play controlled and successful.

### ☐ 6. FLIRT POLE CHASE

**You need:** Size-appropriate flirt pole + soft lure

**1.** Begin with the lure still on the ground.

**2.** Give it a small twitch, then move it away in short scurries.

**3.** Change direction occasionally.

**4.** Frequently let the dog catch and enjoy the lure.

**Tip:** Keep movement low; avoid repeated jumping, sharp pivots or frantic spinning.

### ☐ 7. SNEAKY CRITTER

**You need:** Small plush critter toy

**1.** Move the toy slowly along the floor.

**2.** Freeze it, twitch it and let it disappear behind a chair or box.

**3.** Let the dog stalk and chase.

**4.** Always provide opportunities to capture it.

**Tip:** Think small escaping animal—not race car.

### ☐ 8. CRITTER UNDER THE TOWEL

**You need:** Hand towel + favorite critter

**1.** Let the dog see the critter.

**2.** Partially cover it with the towel and wiggle it underneath.

**3.** Let the dog nose, paw, uncover and capture it.

**Make it harder:** Completely hide the critter and stop wiggling it.

### ☐ 9. CRITTER DEN EXTRACTION

**You need:** Plush burrow toy or open box + critters

**1.** Place one critter partly inside the den.

**2.** Let the dog pull it out.

**3.** Gradually place toys deeper inside.

**4.** Add several critters and let the dog empty the den.

**Make it harder:** Hide the entire den before the search begins.

### ☐ 10. CHASE → CATCH → SEARCH

**You need:** Flirt pole + separate critter toy

**1.** Begin with a short flirt-pole chase.

**2.** Let the dog catch the lure.

**3.** Pause and hide a critter nearby.

**4.** Say “Find It!” and let the dog transition into slower nose work.

**Tip:** Useful for moving from exciting chase play into calmer searching.

## SNIFFING & SCENT SEARCH

**SNIFF • SEARCH • TRACK • FIND • EXPLORE**

**Purpose:** Let the dog use one of their most powerful senses to investigate, track and locate hidden rewards.

### ☐ 11. FIND IT! TREAT TOSS

**You need:** Small treats

**1.** Say "Find it!" and gently toss one treat a few feet away.
**2.** Let the dog chase and locate it.
**3.** When the dog looks back, toss another in a safe direction.
**4.** Gradually place treats beside or partly behind objects.

**Tip:** Stop after several successful searches.

### ☐ 12. BOX SCENT SEARCH

**You need:** 3–6 open boxes + treats

**1.** Place boxes several feet apart.
**2.** Hide treats in one or two boxes.
**3.** Let the dog sniff each box and discover the food.
**4.** Change which boxes are baited each round.

**Make it harder:** Hide the food without the dog watching.

### ☐ 13. TREASURE HUNT

**You need:** Treats or favorite toys

**1.** Hide several easy treasures around one safe room or fenced area.
**2.** Leave them partly visible at first.
**3.** Say "Find It!" and let the dog search at their own pace.

**Make it harder:** Increase the search area and improve the hiding places.

### ☐ 14. SCENT TRAIL TO TREASURE

**You need:** Tiny treats + favorite toy

**1.** Hide the toy nearby.

**2.** Make a short-spaced trail of treats leading toward it.

**3.** Show the dog the beginning and let the nose do the work.

**4.** The final treasure is the toy.

**Make it harder:** Gradually use fewer trail treats.

### ☐ 15. SNIFFARI WALK

**You need:** Leash/harness + safe walking area

**1.** Choose a safe, low-pressure route.

**2.** Allow the dog to set much of the pace.

**3.** Let the dog stop, sniff and investigate interesting areas.

**4.** Prioritize smelling and exploring over distance or heel position.

**Tip:** The purpose is sensory exploration, not obedience practice.

## FORAGING & FOOD PUZZLES

**FORAGE • NOSE • PAW • MANIPULATE • SOLVE**

**Purpose:** Turn food into an opportunity to search, manipulate objects, make choices and solve simple problems.

### ☐ 16. MUFFIN TIN SEARCH

**You need:** Muffin tin + size-safe balls or clean socks + treats

**1.** Place treats in several cups.

**2.** Loosely cover the cups.

**3.** Let the dog sniff and move the covers to find food.

**Make it harder:** Put food in fewer compartments so the dog relies more on scent.

### ☐ 17. TREAT TOWEL

**You need:** Hand towel + treats

**1.** Lay a towel flat and scatter treats over it.

**2.** Loosely fold or roll the towel.

**3.** Let the dog nose and unroll it to find the food.

**Make it harder:** Add another loose fold as skill improves.

### ☐ 18. SNUFFLE MAT SEARCH

**You need:** Snuffle mat + kibble/treats

**1.** Scatter a portion of food throughout the mat.

**2.** Let the dog forage with the nose.

**3.** Start with food near the surface.

**Make it harder:** Hide pieces deeper in the fleece.

### ☐ 19. FOOD-DISPENSING PUZZLE

**You need:** Size-appropriate food puzzle + kibble/treats

**1.** Load the puzzle on an easy setting.

**2.** Demonstrate briefly if needed.

**3.** Let the dog paw, nose, roll or slide pieces to release food.

**Tip:** Increase difficulty gradually; frustration is not the goal.

### ☐ 20. SCATTER FEEDING

**You need:** Kibble/treats + safe room or yard

**1.** Scatter part of the dog's meal across a safe surface.

**2.** Release the dog to forage for each piece.

**3.** Begin in a small area.

**Make it harder:** Widen the search area as skill increases.

## DIGGING & BURROWING

**DIG • PAW • BURROW • UNCOVER • EXTRACT**

**Purpose:** Give dogs who love pawing, digging and uncovering an appropriate place to perform those behaviors.

### ☐ 21. DESIGNATED DIG BOX

**You need:** Dig box/sandbox + dog-safe substrate + toys/treats

**1.** Create one approved digging location.

**2.** Bury toys or treats shallowly.

**3.** Encourage the dog to uncover them.

**4.** Refresh the buried treasures regularly.

**Tip:** Reward use of the legal digging area.

### ☐ 22. DIG FOR THE CRITTER

**You need:** Box + crumpled paper + favorite toy

**1.** Loosely fill a box with crumpled paper.

**2.** Hide the toy near the top.

**3.** Let the dog nose and paw through the paper.

**4.** Allow the dog to dig until the toy is found.

**Make it harder:** Gradually bury the toy deeper.

### ☐ 23. BLANKET BURROW SEARCH

**You need:** Small blanket + treats or toy

**1.** Place treasure on the blanket.

**2.** Make one loose fold over it.

**3.** Let the dog uncover it.

**4.** Add more loose folds as the dog improves.

**Make it harder:** Hide the treasure without the dog watching.

### ☐ 24. BALL-PIT TREASURE DIG

**You need:** Shallow tub + size-safe lightweight balls + toy/treats

**1.** Put a shallow layer of balls in the container.

**2.** Place the treasure on top.

**3.** Let the dog retrieve it.

**4.** Progress to partially burying the treasure.

**Safety:** All balls must be too large for the dog to swallow.

### ☐ 25. TOWEL PILE EXCAVATION

**You need:** Several towels + treats or toy

**1.** Make a loose pile of towels.

**2.** Place treats or a toy between layers.

**3.** Let the dog paw, nose and rearrange the pile to uncover the reward.

**Safety:** Never tightly wrap the dog or the prize.

## LICKING, CHEWING & ORAL ENRICHMENT

**LICK • CHEW • CRUNCH • EXTRACT • SETTLE**

**Purpose:** Provide sustained oral activity that can occupy, satisfy and help many dogs settle.

### ☐ 26. FROZEN FOOD STUFFER

**You need:** Size-appropriate KONG/Toppl-style toy + dog-safe filling

**1.** Introduce the toy unfrozen and easy first.

**2.** Fill it with part of the dog's meal or a dog-safe mixture.

**3.** Once the dog understands it, chill or freeze it to extend the activity.

**Tip:** Keep early attempts easy enough for steady success.

### ☐ 27. LICK MAT

**You need:** Durable lick mat + thin dog-safe spread

**1.** Spread a thin layer of suitable food across the mat.

**2.** Place it on a stable surface.

**3.** Let the dog lick at their own pace.

**Safety:** Supervise until you know the dog will lick rather than chew the mat.

### ☐ 28. PUPSICLE-STYLE FROZEN TREAT

**You need:** Appropriate frozen-treat holder + dog-safe recipe

**1.** Prepare the frozen insert ahead of time.

**2.** Offer it when the dog is calm.

**3.** Allow slow licking and extraction.

### ☐ 29. STUFFED RUBBER TOY LAYERING

**You need:** Durable hollow toy + dog-safe foods

**1.** Put easy-to-remove food near the opening.

**2.** Place slightly more challenging food deeper inside.

**3.** Let the dog work through the layers.

**Tip:** Do not make the first attempt too difficult.

### ☐ 30. SUPERVISED CHEW SESSION

**You need:** Size-appropriate veterinarian-approved chew

**1.** Offer the chew in a quiet area.

**2.** Supervise the dog while chewing.

**3.** Remove it if pieces break off or it becomes small enough to swallow.

**Safety:** Choose chews appropriate for the dog's size, chewing style, dental health and diet.

## INTERACTIVE PLAY & SOCIAL GAMES

**ENGAGE • PLAY • CHOOSE • CONNECT • COOPERATE**

**Purpose:** Build enjoyable engagement between dog and pet parent through short cooperative games.

### ☐ 31. WHICH HAND?

**You need:** High-value treats

**1.** Place one treat in one hand and close both fists.

**2.** Present both hands at nose level.

**3.** Let the dog choose by sniffing or touching.

**4.** Open the correct hand immediately.

**Tip:** Simply reset after a wrong choice—no correction needed.

### ☐ 32. HIDE-AND-SEEK PERSON

**You need:** Familiar person + treats or toy

**1.** One person stays with the dog while another hides nearby.

**2.** Call the dog once.

**3.** Let the dog search independently.

**4.** Celebrate the find.

**Make it harder:** Use more distant hiding places.

### ☐ 33. TOY CHASE

**You need:** Soft toy

**1.** Move the toy away from the dog along the floor.

**2.** Pause so the dog can catch it.

**3.** Allow a short win before restarting.

**Tip:** Put the toy away while the dog still wants more.

### ☐ 34. TUG WITH RULES

**You need:** Durable tug toy

**1.** Invite the dog to grab the toy.

**2.** Use gentle back-and-forth movement.

**3.** Build in pauses.

**4.** Teach a trade/drop with food or another toy.

**Tip:** Let the dog win regularly.

### ☐ 35. FUN BREAK

**You need:** Any favorite interactive game

**1.** Say a cue such as “Fun Break!”

**2.** Immediately begin a favorite short game such as Find It, tug, chase or Which Hand.

**3.** Play for 1–3 minutes.

**4.** Stop while the dog is still interested.

**Tip:** The cue should predict enjoyable interaction.

## EXPLORATION, CONFIDENCE & PROBLEM-SOLVING

**EXPLORE • INVESTIGATE • CHOOSE • SOLVE • BUILD CONFIDENCE**

**Purpose:** Encourage safe curiosity, independent thinking and confidence with novelty and environmental challenges.

### ☐ 36. WHAT CHANGED?

**You need:** One safe novel household object

1. Place a harmless unfamiliar object in a familiar area while the dog is elsewhere.
2. Bring the dog in and allow independent observation.
3. Reward calm checking, sniffing or voluntary disengagement.

**Tip:** Never force the dog to approach.

### ☐ 37. BOX MAZE

**You need:** Several open cardboard boxes + toy/treat

1. Arrange boxes into a simple pathway.
2. Place treasure at the end.
3. Let the dog choose how to move through or around the maze.

**Make it harder:** Change the arrangement to create a new environment.

### ☐ 38. INDOOR ADVENTURE COURSE

**You need:** Stable household objects + treats

1. Create an easy route around, between or over low stable objects.
2. Encourage exploration without forcing the dog onto anything.
3. Reward curiosity and allow alternate routes.

### ☐ 39. NOVEL OBJECT INVESTIGATION

**You need:** Safe object with an unusual shape or texture

**1.** Place the object at a comfortable distance.

**2.** Let the dog approach, sniff, circle or walk away.

**3.** Mark and reward voluntary investigation.

**Tip:** Walking away is useful information too.

### ☐ 40. CHOICE STATION

**You need:** 2–4 familiar enrichment options

**1.** Set out several safe activities such as a snuffle mat, toy, box search and chew.

**2.** Let the dog choose what to investigate.

**3.** Observe what is selected and how long engagement lasts.

**Tip:** Choice itself is part of the enrichment.

## GUARDIAN, WATCHING & JOB ACTIVITIES

**Purpose:** Give watchful or working dogs' purposeful ways to patrol, inspect and report while reinforcing calm behavior.

### ☐ 41. PERIMETER PATROL WALK

**You need:** Leash/harness + safe property boundary

**1.** Walk slowly around the property boundary.
**2.** Let the dog stop, sniff, look and listen.
**3.** Pause at several checkpoints.
**4.** Mark and reward calm observation.

**Tip:** Finish at an "all clear" station such as a mat or bed.

### ☐ 42. GUARDIAN LOOKOUT STATION

**You need:** Mat, cot, porch or controlled window view

**1.** Give the dog an approved observation location.
**2.** Allow calm watching for short periods.
**3.** When something is noticed, acknowledge it calmly.
**4.** Reward quiet disengagement or a check-in.

**Safety:** Reduce visual access if the dog rehearses prolonged barking.

### ☐ 43. GUARDIAN SCENT INSPECTION ROUTE

**You need:** 4–6 safe stations + treats or safe scents

**1.** Create a short inspection route using boxes, cones, mats or planters.
**2.** Place something interesting at selected stations.
**3.** Walk the route loosely and let the dog choose what to inspect.

**Make it harder:** Change which stations contain something interesting.

### ☐ 44. FIND THE FAMILY

**You need:** Familiar person + reward

**1.** Have a familiar person hide nearby.

**2.** Cue the dog to find them.

**3.** Allow an independent search.

**4.** The hidden person rewards the successful find.

**Make it harder:** Increase the distance gradually.

### ☐ 45. HOUSEHOLD JOB: FIND OR CARRY

**You need:** Familiar toy/object

**1.** Give the dog a simple job such as finding a named toy or carrying a safe item.

**2.** Start with the object in plain sight.

**3.** Reward completion and gradually increase difficulty.

**Tip:** Use carrying only with dogs who already handle objects safely.

## CALMING & INDEPENDENT ENRICHMENT

**SNIFF • LICK • SETTLE • CHOOSE • DECOMPRESS**

**Purpose:** Offer lower-arousal activities that support decompression, settling and comfortable independent engagement.

### ☐ 46. CALM SNUFFLE SEARCH

**You need:** Snuffle mat or small search area + food

**1.** Scatter a modest amount of food.

**2.** Allow slow sniffing without prompting.

**3.** Keep the environment quiet and let the dog finish at their own pace.

**Tip:** Use when lower-arousal engagement is wanted.

### ☐ 47. EASY FROZEN LICK

**You need:** Lick mat or food stuffer + dog-safe filling

**1.** Use a thin or lightly frozen filling.

**2.** Offer it in the dog's comfortable resting area.

**3.** Let the dog lick without additional demands.

**Tip:** Keep it soothing rather than frustrating.

### ☐ 48. QUIET CARDBOARD SNIFF BOX

**You need:** Shallow box + loose paper/tubes + treats

**1.** Scatter easy-to-find treats among loose paper and open tubes.

**2.** Let the dog search and manipulate the materials quietly.

**Safety:** Supervise and stop if paper or cardboard is swallowed.

### ☐ 49. SETTLE-AND-WATCH

You need: Bed or mat + low-intensity environment

1. Invite the dog to a comfortable station.
2. Allow observation of ordinary household or outdoor activity.
3. Quietly reinforce relaxed body language, check-ins and settling.

Tip: Increase distance from activity if the dog cannot relax.

### ☐ 50. INDEPENDENT CHOICE BASKET

You need: 2–3 safe familiar toys or chews

1. Offer a small rotation of known enrichment items.
2. Allow the dog to choose.
3. Avoid constantly directing the activity.
4. Observe whether the dog prefers chewing, carrying, licking or resting.

Tip: Rotate options periodically to preserve interest.

## CHECK WHAT YOUR DOG LOVES

**Look for patterns:**

☐ Shredding / dissecting
☐ Sniffing / searching
☐ Stalking / chasing
☐ Capturing / extracting
☐ Foraging / solving
☐ Digging / burrowing
☐ Licking / chewing
☐ Interactive play
☐ Exploring / investigating
☐ Watching / patrolling
☐ Calm independent activity

### KC'S IMPORTANT ENRICHMENT RULES

**START EASY.** Success builds confidence.

**LET THE DOG THINK.** Give the dog time before helping.

**LET THE DOG MAKE CHOICES.** Exploration and choice are part of enrichment.

**KEEP IT SHORT.** Stop while the dog still wants more.

**DON'T FORCE PARTICIPATION.** Walking away is useful information too.

**MATCH THE GAME TO THE MOMENT.** Use active games for energy outlets and sniffing, licking or searching for quieter engagement.

**SUPERVISE EVERY ACTIVITY.** Remove damaged toys and prevent swallowing of non-food pieces.

## MOUSE & CRITTER HUNT

**SNIFF • SEARCH • STALK • CHASE • DIG • CAPTURE • EXTRACT • CARRY • SHAKE • SOLVE**

**Purpose:** Give Your dog safe opportunities to explore natural Yorkie prey-drive behaviors while discovering which activities she genuinely enjoys and finds rewarding. The goal is fun—not obedience or perfect performance.

### 51. FIND THE MOUSE

**You need:** Small mouse toy

**1.** Let Your dog see and sniff the mouse.

**2.** Place it nearby with part of it visible.

**3.** Say "Find Mouse!"

**4.** Let Your dog search independently.

**5.** Celebrate when she finds it and allow her to capture and carry her mouse.

**Make it harder:** Gradually hide the mouse completely or increase the search area.

### 52. MOUSE IN THE BOXES

**You need:** Mouse toy + 3–5 small cardboard boxes

**1.** Place several open boxes around the room.

**2.** Hide the mouse in one box.

**3.** Say "Find Mouse!"

**4.** Let Your dog investigate each box.

**5.** Allow her to pull out her mouse herself.

**Make it harder:** Hide the mouse without Your dog watching.

## 53. DIG FOR THE MOUSE

**You need:** Cardboard box + crumpled packing paper + mouse toy

**1.** Loosely fill a box with crumpled paper.

**2.** Hide the mouse near the top.

**3.** Let Your dog sniff, nose and paw through the paper.

**4.** Allow her to dig until she finds her mouse.

**5.** Let her enjoy her catch.

**Make it harder:** Gradually bury the mouse deeper.

## 54. THE SNEAKY MOUSE

**You need:** Mouse toy

**1.** Slowly move the mouse along the floor.

**2.** Stop and make the mouse “freeze.”

**3.** Give it a little twitch.

**4.** Move it behind a chair or box.

**5.** Let Your dog stalk and chase it.

**6.** Always give her opportunities to catch it.

## 55. MOUSE UNDER THE TOWEL

**You need:** Hand towel + mouse toy

**1.** Let Your dog see the mouse.

**2.** Partially cover it with the towel.

**3.** Wiggle the mouse underneath.

**4.** Let Your dog nose, paw and investigate.

**5.** Allow her to uncover and capture it.

**Make it harder:** Completely hide the mouse and stop wiggling it.

## 56. MOUSE TUNNEL

**You need:** Mouse toy + cardboard box or small dog tunnel

**1.** Show Your dog the mouse.

**2.** Slowly move it toward the tunnel.

**3.** Let the mouse disappear inside.

**4.** Encourage Your dog to investigate.

5. Let her follow, reach inside or search for the mouse.

## 57. HIDE-A-SQUIRREL HUNT

**You need:** Small Hide-A-Squirrel toy

**1.** Let Your dog investigate a squirrel.

**2.** Partially place it inside the tree trunk.

**3.** Let her pull it out.

**4.** Gradually put the squirrels deeper inside.

**5.** Eventually hide individual squirrels around the room.

**Tip:** Say “Find Squirrel!” and let the hunt begin.

## 58. CRITTER DEN

**You need:** Small plush burrow toy + critters

**1.** Show Your dog a critter.

**2.** Put it partially inside the den.

**3.** Let her pull it out.

**4.** Add additional critters.

**5.** Let Your dog empty the den herself.

**Make it harder:** Hide the entire den first.

## 59. WHICH BOX HAS THE CRITTER?

**You need:** 3 small boxes + favorite critter

**1.** Place three boxes several feet apart.

**2.** Let Your dog smell the critter.

**3.** Hide it inside one box.

**4.** Say “Find It!”

**5.** Let Your dog investigate.

**6.** When she finds the correct box, let her capture her critter.

## 60. CRITTER TREASURE HUNT

**You need:** 3–5 small critter toys

**1.** Hide several critters around the room.

**2.** Initially leave part of each toy visible.

**3.** Say “Find It!”

**4.** Let Your dog explore freely.

**5.** Allow her to enjoy each discovery before searching again.

**Make it harder:** Increase the search area and improve the hiding places.

## 61. FOLLOW THE MOUSE TRAIL

**You need:** Mouse toy + several tiny treats

**1.** Hide the mouse nearby.

**2.** Make a short trail of treats leading toward it.

**3.** Show Your dog the beginning.

**4.** Let her follow the trail.

**5.** The final treasure is her mouse.

**Make it harder:** Gradually use fewer treats.

## 62. THE GREAT CRITTER HUNT

**You need:** Boxes + towel + packing paper + several critters

1. Create several hunting stations: mouse under a towel, squirrel inside a box, critter buried in paper, critter behind furniture, and critter inside a burrow.
2. Say “Find It!” and let Your dog decide where to investigate.
3. There is no correct order—let Your dog choose.

## 63. FLIRT POLE CHASE

**You need:** Small-dog flirt pole with a soft lure

1. Begin with the lure lying still on the ground.
2. Give it a small twitch.
3. Slowly drag it away from Your dog.
4. Change direction occasionally as though the critter is escaping.
5. Let Your dog stalk and chase.
6. Frequently let her catch the lure.
7. Pause while she enjoys her capture before beginning again.

**Tip:** Keep the lure primarily on the ground. Avoid repeated jumping, sharp pivots or frantic spinning.

## 64. FLIRT POLE HIDE-AND-SEEK

**You need:** Flirt pole + cardboard box, chair or other safe obstacle

**1.** Slowly drag the lure along the floor.
**2.** Let Your dog watch it disappear behind an object.
**3.** Stop moving it for a moment.
**4.** Give the hidden lure a tiny twitch.
**5.** Let Your dog investigate.
**6.** When she discovers it, move the lure.
**7.** After a short chase, let her capture it.

## 65. MUFFIN-TIN CRITTER SEARCH

**You need:** Muffin tin + several appropriately sized balls + treats

**1.** Put a treat into only a few muffin cups.
**2.** Cover the cups with balls that are too large for Your dog to swallow.
**3.** Let Your dog investigate.
**4.** Allow her to sniff and move the balls herself.
**5.** She discovers which hiding places contain treasure.

**Make it harder:** Put food in fewer compartments so she must rely more on her nose.

## 66. MUFFIN-TIN MOUSE HUNT

**You need:** Muffin tin + safe balls + small critter toy

**1.** Let Your dog smell the mouse.

**2.** Place the mouse in or beside a safe section of the muffin-tin setup.

**3.** Cover or partially obscure the area with balls.

**4.** Let Your dog investigate.

**5.** Allow her to move obstacles and uncover her mouse.

**Safety:** All objects must be appropriately sized and used under supervision.

## 67. BALL-PIT CRITTER HUNT

**You need:** Shallow box or tub + lightweight balls + mouse or squirrel

**1.** Put a shallow layer of balls in the container.

**2.** Place the critter on top.

**3.** Let Your dog retrieve it.

**4.** Next time, partially bury the critter.

**5.** Eventually hide it underneath the balls.

## 68. PAPER-BAG CRITTER SEARCH

**You need:** Several open paper bags + critter toy

**1.** Lay several paper bags on their sides.

**2.** Put the critter partially inside one.

**3.** Let Your dog investigate.

**4.** Allow her to reach in with her nose and pull the critter out.

**5.** Gradually make the hiding place less obvious.

**Safety:** Remove handles and supervise so Your dog cannot become tangled.

## 69. CRITTER UNDER THE CUPS

**You need:** 3 lightweight cups + small treats or scented critter

**1.** Place three cups upside down.

**2.** Let Your dog watch you hide treasure underneath one.

**3.** Encourage her to investigate.

**4.** Let her indicate the correct cup with her nose or paw.

**5.** Lift it and reveal her treasure.

**Make it harder:** Shuffle the cup positions or hide the treasure without her watching.

## 70. CARDBOARD TUBE MOUSE DEN

**You need:** Wide cardboard tube or small open-ended box + mouse

**1.** Let Your dog watch the mouse disappear into the opening.

**2.** Leave part of the mouse visible.

**3.** Let her investigate and pull it out.

**4.** Gradually position it farther inside.

**5.** Allow Your dog to work out how to retrieve it.

**Safety:** Never use an opening small enough for Your dog's head to become stuck.

## 71. CRITTER IN THE BLANKET

**You need:** Small blanket + critter

**1.** Place the critter on the blanket.

**2.** Make one loose fold over it.

**3.** Let Your dog uncover it.

**4.** Add additional loose folds as she improves.

**5.** Eventually let her search without seeing where you hid it.

## 72. SCURRYING MOUSE

**You need:** Mouse toy attached to a safe tug line or flirt pole

**1.** Move the mouse slowly along the floor.

**2.** Make it stop.

**3.** Let it dart a short distance.

**4.** Hide it briefly.

**5.** Let it reappear.

**6.** Allow a short chase.

**7.** Let Your dog win and capture the mouse.

**Tip:** Think mouse, not race car: short scurries, freezes and direction changes make the game interesting.

## 73. CRITTER BEHIND THE DOOR

**You need:** Critter toy

**1.** Let Your dog see the critter.

**2.** Slowly move it behind an open doorway.

**3.** Leave just a tiny portion visible.

**4.** Let Your dog search around the doorway.

**5.** Allow her to discover and capture it.

**Make it harder:** Eventually hide it completely out of sight.

## 74. BOX MAZE HUNT

**You need:** Several cardboard boxes + favorite critter

**1.** Arrange open boxes into a simple pathway.

**2.** Place the critter at the end.

**3.** Let Your dog explore her way through.

**4.** Avoid directing every decision.

**5.** Let her discover how to reach her treasure.

**Make it harder:** Change the arrangement to create a new environment to investigate.

## 75. SCENT-AND-FIND CRITTER

**You need:** Favorite critter toy

**1.** Let Your dog thoroughly sniff the critter.

**2.** Place it a few feet away.

**3.** Say "Find It!"

**4.** Gradually begin hiding it out of sight.

**5.** Increase the search area as she succeeds.

## 76. CRITTER TRAIL THROUGH THE HOUSE

**You need:** Favorite mouse or critter

**1.** Create a series of easy discoveries: mouse behind chair → squirrel inside box → critter under towel → mouse inside burrow.

**2.** Let each discovery lead Your dog into another area.

**3.** Allow her to explore and solve each station at her own pace.

## 77. PET PARENT HIDES WITH THE MOUSE

**You need:** Mouse + pet parent

1. Someone gently stays with Your dog while her pet parent hides nearby.
2. The pet parent takes Your dog's mouse.
3. Release Your dog with "Find Mom!"
4. Let her search.
5. When she finds her pet parent, reveal the mouse and celebrate together.

## 78. CHASE → CATCH → SEARCH

**You need:** Flirt pole + critter toy

1. Begin with a short flirt-pole chase.
2. Let Your dog catch the lure.
3. End the chase while she is still enjoying herself.
4. Give her a brief pause.
5. Hide a mouse or critter nearby.
6. Say "Find It!"
7. Let Your dog transition from exciting chase behavior into slower nose work.

   **Tip:** A useful transition from high-energy prey play into calmer searching.