



Five Fun Training Games for Treibball Novices

Novice Dogs should be working towards going out to a distance of 20 to 25 feet, being able to wait for 5 seconds before pushing the ball and pushing a ball with head, nose, or shoulders without biting the ball.

1) A Question of Balance Game

The object of this game is to teach the dog how to push the ball straight to you. With your dog on the other side of a ball at 6 o'clock, and you at 12 o'clock change sides. You move to 6 and your dog moves to 12 o'clock. As the dog gets better, move to 9 and 3 and then make smaller changes. Add distance from the ball as the dog becomes more advanced. Look for your dog's spine to be straight, head towards you, tail pointing away so they can push the ball toward you.



2) Keep Calm and Carry On Game

The object of this game is train impulse control around balls. Send your dog out to a ball. Make sure they are lined up behind the ball then ask for a sit, reward for position. Send them out to the ball again and ask for a down or a stand. More advanced dogs can be asked to do spins, sit-pretty or other tricks at greater distances. Do all of this without pushing any balls to proof your

dog's impulse control around balls. For NATE's Novice class you will be working with three balls but as your dog advances you can play this game with more balls.

3) Here, There and Everywhere Game

This game teaches directional cues. Place three mats out on the field in a line. Signal your dog to go out to the center mat and sit or lie down. Then signal your dog to go to the mat on the right and stand, then reward. Then signal your dog to go to the center mat and then the leftmost mat, etc. Start with mats then repeat with balls. Increase distance progressively.





4) **The Barrel Racing Game**

The object of this game is to increase speed and have some fun working on your physical or verbal directional cues. Using 2 balls, buckets, cones, posts or other objects. You can start by luring your dog around the buckets using the hand that is on the same side as the dog. Switch hands and then lure them around the other bucket. Get rid of the lure by using hand targeting (touch). Reward your dog on the back side of the bucket opposite you. Progressively fade the hand target into a hand signal. Hand signals can be low as if you are bowling your dog around the buckets. Use your eyes, shoulders, hips, and feet to show the dog which direction to go next. Build speed and distance progressively.

5) **My Friend Flicka Game**

The object of this game is to teach your dog to push the ball with the top of their head or the top of their nose in order to flick the ball to the goal. Dogs can push by poking the ball with their tip or the top of their nose, the top of their head, cheeks or by using their shoulders. Straighter and harder pushes result in faster times. Pushing low on the ball will put more speed on the ball. Start with a roll of paper towels holding it just above nose height shaping your dog for pushing it with the top of his nose. Progressively shape for harder pushes. Then move to a ball. Standing over the ball reinforce your dog for pushing the ball with the top of their nose below the equator of the ball. Reward your dog on the opposite side of the ball from you, between the equator of the ball and the ground.

