

## « SNIFF / FETCH »

Humans cannot measure up to the calibre of the sense of smell a dog possesses. A dog trained to track down an odour will bring you tremendous satisfaction, and could render you a valuable service.

Food is a good departure point to begin the exercise of sniffing and fetching. Take a biscuit with a strong odour, and place your dog in a place where he cannot see you. Tell the dog to « STAY ». Then, hide the biscuit in a place easily accessible, (behind a door, for example) so as to encourage the dog to go looking for it. Have a similar biscuit in your pocket. Give him the command « SNIFF / FETCH », as you pass the biscuit in your hand under his nose, *hand closed*, so that the dog cannot take it. When the dog has sniffed the biscuit by moving his nose, open the door, and tell him « FETCH! ». The dog will probably not be sure of exactly what he is supposed to fetch, but it won't be long that he'll find it, and when he does, congratulate him heartily for his prowess. Play the game again, this time placing the biscuit in a more difficult place to find. Make it harder and harder to reach, more and more difficult to find. Try burying it on your property, and your dog will amaze with his refined sense of smell. While the enthusiasm level is still high, stop playing. If, during the game, you notice that the energy level is going down, repeat the « FETCH » command many times with an enthusiastic tone. Don't let the dog see where you are hiding the object, and congratulate him with good cheer when he finds it. This exercise is very practical when you have something to do that requires the dog to be kept busy, such as making supper, working in the garden, etc. Hide a biscuit on the property, and go about your business. Such a well-honed education will bring you many fine moments.

When the dog reaches such a level in the use of his sense of smell, you can now challenge the dog by hiding a biscuit in a place where the dog cannot reach it. The dog will attempt scratching and nibbling at the place where the biscuit is; congratulate the dog for having found the biscuit. Give him the command « SIT », and *then* congratulate him for having found it by giving it to him.

The dog can now fetch all sorts of objects with different odours. By using the technique described above, you can make the dog sniff something which belongs to someone, and have the dog identify the person to whom the object belongs. Just tell the dog « SNIFF » while you hold an object for him to sniff, then say « FETCH! » once you have hidden it. Each time the dog finds the object, congratulate and reward him. With diligent practice, you can transform your dog into a useful member of the community. His keen sense of smell can be put to good use in many different fields of endeavour such as localizing lost persons, working with the police in finding drugs, or even saving the life of a citizen.