



TUG

Tug of war is a great way to satisfy your dog's natural drive to put their mouths on an item during play. Tug redirects your dog to put their mouth on an appropriate object while exercising them through play!

There are Rules!

Do not play this game with your dog if they are a known resource guarder.

Do not allow your dog to initiate the game with you, *you* are the fun starter!

Always follow through with your direction. For example; you ask your dog to DROP – ensure you get a response before releasing the item.

How to Play the Game

- Choose a toy that is long enough for both you and your dog to have a hold of it, and strong enough to withstand the game.
- Invite your dog to grab the toy by using a phrase such as “Take it!” or “Get it!” to initiate a game of tug. *If your dog is not interested in the toy, try shaking it quickly in front of their face, or moving it quickly from in their view to out of their view.*
- Once your dog grabs onto the toy encourage them to tug with upbeat vocal tones, and sporadic jerks on the toy.
- Continue to encourage your dog to tug as long as the toy is active. Start with short sessions, elongating the duration as your dog's responsiveness improves.
- Hold the toy still when you would like your dog to drop it.
- Direct your dog to DROP (or give). Watch the ‘wheels’ turn in your dog's head. Do not repeat your command if your dog is considering dropping the toy.
- Redirect your dog to DROP if they continue to tug or do something obviously different from what you've asked. DO NOT escalate your command. Remember to hold the toy still.
- **NEVER attempt to pry the toy from your dog's mouth.**
- Be patient and calm. Repeat your command using the above guideline, until your dog drops the toy.
- Once your dog drops the toy praise them GOOD DOG! **Immediately** reward them by presenting the toy again, GET IT!
- Your dog is generally reluctant to drop the toy as they fear they won't get it back – ergo, the instant payment for responding to the command will encourage your drop to drop it faster next time!
- Repeat the above steps, directing your dog to TAKE IT and DROP IT until you or your dog has tired of the game.
- It's okay to let your dog win! Your dog can pull the toy from your hands **as long as you did not direct them to DROP before doing so.**
- When the game has finished use a hand signal you feel appropriate at the same time as you say FINISHED and tuck the toy under your arm.

Georgian Triangle Humane Society

549 Tenth Line, Collingwood ON, L9Y 0W1
705-445-5204 | info@gths.ca | www.gths.ca
Registration Number 86800 4185 RR0001



- You may wish to treat your dog at the end of the exercise for a job well done!
- Once your dog has a good grasp of the game, start elongating the duration of each tug session.
- You can also expect your dog to wait longer between DROP IT and TAKE IT directions. Eventually, you can even add / expect a SIT or DOWN before directing your dog to TAKE IT.

Support:

Our Behaviour Support Team can help to provide resources and tips if you experience concerns in the home environment. With your adoption the GTHS will provide an over the phone consultation in order to provide you with tips and resources to set your new dog up for success. In all cases of dog adoptions, the GTHS recommends hiring a professional dog training or behavioural consultant to ensure your relationship with your new dog starts off on the right paw! A list of local trainers is enclosed in your adoption package.

Our Behaviour Support Team can be reached at behaviour@gths.ca

Georgian Triangle Humane Society

549 Tenth Line, Collingwood ON, L9Y 0W1
705-445-5204 | info@gths.ca | www.gths.ca
Registration Number 86800 4185 RR0001