



## Treibball Foundation Skills

Some basic team skills before you start sport training are very helpful to a successful sport experience. This is a brief overview of some of the behaviors that will set your team up for success.

**Reward Based Training** – Using rewards to build your dog’s skills is essential for distance work.

**Shaping** – Doing distance work requires a team that can think on their feet. Shaping is a training technique that rewards successive approximations of behavior using patience, timing, rate of reinforcement and criteria. A good resource is the Karen Pryor website and her 101 Things to do with a Box Game.

**Attention to Handler** – A dog who is attentive is easy to train. Your dog can’t be a good team member if they are not attentive to the handler and vice versa!

**Position Relative to Handler** – Front position: The straighter the dog is when pushing the ball the more likely the ball is to come straight to the handler without going off in other directions. Side & Heel Position: Dog stands next to the handler on the left for Heel and Right for Side.

**Send Out** – The send out is used to send your dog out a distance to position him behind the balls to push them in. A familiar version of this in basic training is the “Go to Your Spot” or “Go to Your Crate” behavior. Training this as a game not only makes your dog happy it can make you happy to have a constructive game to play with your dog AND build a great companion dog.



**Wait, Stay and Leave It** are basic impulse control exercises that are helpful to keep a dog’s arousal under control. The game of Treibball has rules about starting position, ending position and pushing on cue after a pause. The more practice your dog has in impulse control behaviors the more successful you will be in the game of Treibball.

**Targeting, touching and pushing** Using different body parts (front of nose, top of nose, head, shoulders, body, etc.), pushing with different levels of intensity and pushing multiple times will help you get better ball pushing behaviors and body awareness for straight pushes. Use of targets and platforms for positioning and distance with your dog can be fun and skill building at the same time. Work on perfecting targeting, touching and pushing before you start pushing balls around and you will benefit with more efficient pushing skills rather than wild and crazy out-of-control pushing.

**Directional cues** are not usually taught in basic obedience classes, but teaching your dog to respond to go right or left, forward or further away can jump start your team’s Treibball career.

There are many, many games you can play to prepare your dog for sports. A good Treibball program will incorporate foundation skills into their program. You can always practice foundations regardless of how advanced you and your dog are. Look for a trainer that teaches progressively using good consequences (rewards and gentle handling) and force free techniques to train your dog in the sport of Treibball.