



Teaching Pet Parents to Succeed

Tricky Treat Ball

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Benefits of the Tricky Treat Ball

1. It makes minimal noise – unlike the Buster Cube
2. It slows down the speed at which your dog eats his kibble – better for digestion
3. Your dog is more likely to crunch the individual pieces of food – better for his teeth
4. It keeps your dog busy for as much as 20 minutes – he's not getting into mischief
5. He's working for his food – better than him scoffing it down then looking for trouble
6. He's sniffing – using one of his natural instincts
7. He's in motion – exercising himself
8. It's fun – his brain is releasing endorphins which have a calming effect
9. It makes meal time last longer – think about all that excitement & anticipation before the meal and then it's over in a few seconds.

How to Use the Tricky Treat Ball

1. Remove the ball from the box! Think of a name for the ball - any word you like!
2. Fill the ball with food to the top – first few times only. As you give him the ball say the name of the ball. He will gradually learn that this is the name of the ball and eventually he will be able to go and find it for you at feeding time!
3. Allow your dog to explore the ball. Food will fall out easily. Don't talk to your dog or interfere. He/she will work it out themselves! For nervous dogs it can help if you put a small pile of kibble UNDERNEATH the ball the first couple of times so that as soon as he touches the ball food appears.
4. If your dog immediately gets the hang of it and you think they'll be getting too much food the first few times when it's full just let them have it for a few minutes and then trade him with something else and remove the ball. You could also start with a smaller size ball, it comes in small, medium and large. The "small" is more suitable for cats though and food falls out very quickly.
5. Once they know how to use it just put the usual amount of food in there and let them "work it" until it's empty OR for about 15-20 minutes. If they are leaving lots of food in there you are probably giving them too much!

6. To clean the ball, soak it in hot water and then you can stick your finger into the large hole and pull out the “funnel” – this makes it much easier to wash the ball and drain the water out. You can put it in the top rack of the dishwasher. If you prefer, you can make a larger hole in the base of the ball for the water to drain out. There is already a very tiny hole which is to avoid the dog’s tongue getting stuck but it’s not big enough for the water to drain out efficiently.
7. Each time you give the ball to your dog, say the name of the ball (e.g. “tricky” or something catchy sounding). After a while it is very likely that your dog will start bringing the ball to you at feeding time anyway but if you have given the ball a name, e.g. “tricky” you will be able to say the word and your dog should run off and find the ball! Fun!

The Tricky Treat ball is available [on Amazon](#) and some other on-line stores. It is sometimes available in pet stores locally.

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