



300 Peck Game

Introduction

The 300 peck game, and variations of, are a great thing to play on a rainy day at home or when you are out and about in new places.

For those of you who are interested, 300 Peck was first discovered during experiments with pigeons where a scientist was investigating variable reinforcement schedules on behaviours. The pigeons were trained to peck a bar for a food reinforcer and then gradually required to peck more and more often in order to earn the same reinforcer. The scientist discovered that by gradually building the number of pecks, they were able to progress the behaviour onto a variable reinforcement schedule of 300, where 300 was the average amount of pecks the pigeons would offer in order to earn a reinforcer.

By applying this theory to our loose leash walking, we can gradually increase the number of steps we take before we give a food reward.

How to Play

If you are inside your home, you might be able to play this off leash, but it is probably best to start on leash. If you are outside, always work with your puppy on leash!

Have plenty of treats available to reward success.

As you get to more steps, you do not have to travel in a straight line for this exercise.

- ☐ Stage 1 - Take one step forward - if your puppy moves with you, mark with a nice "Yes," reward, and move onto Stage 2. If your puppy does not move with you, keep taking one step, marking and rewarding, until you are successful.
- ☐ Stage 2 - Take two steps forward - if your puppy moves with you for two steps, mark with a nice "Yes," reward, and move onto Stage 3. If your puppy does not manage two steps, **go back to Stage 1.**



PAWS WITH A CAUSE

- ☐ Stage 3 - Take three steps forward - if your puppy moves with you for three steps, mark with a nice “Yes,” reward, and move onto Stage 4. If your puppy does not manage three steps, **go back to Stage 1.**
- ☐ Stage 4 - Increase the duration by one step at a time, marking and rewarding at the end of the sequence each time. **Any time your puppy gets distracted, go back to Stage 1!**