



# LEASH OFF GAME ON

EMPOWER & SUPERCHARGE YOUR RELATIONSHIP



# LEASH OFF GAME ON!

**Imagine a world where you have such an awesome relationship with your dog and such reliable trust and confidence in their behaviour that you really don't need a leash, we love to think of it as LEASH OFF GAME ON!**

We like to think our dogs want to be with us and actively want to pay attention to us. We want a no pressure relationship but instead lots of FUN and JOY and we like to think it's worth their time as we really do want to add value to their days as much as they add value to ours to prevent jumping up, help to improve recall and generally help to improve all basic behaviour and manners in many different places and habitats.

We have 10 games that introduce the concept of your dog wanting to be with you and allowing you the opportunity of increased off leash freedom!

These games will soon become your 24/7 tools that you use in each and every day as you go about your life. Take the opportunity to build the concept that when that leash comes off, the dogs want to be with you, the game is ON. Really empower and supercharge your relationship after all we know it's surely worth it!

These games are achievable for everyone and can be played everyday, everywhere and any time – even just for a couple of minutes, it will all pay in to that relationship bank account!

**So drum roll please .....here we go.....**

“  
allowing  
you the  
opportunity  
of increased  
off leash  
freedom!  
”





# GAME 1. ALL EYES ARE ON ME

**There are so many things that draw our dog's attention and that they can be looking at, or even staring at when out and about, but we want them to orientate to us, yes we hear you, that's HARD! We want them to keep their eyes on us at all times, like we need them to make it their mission and we need to make it worth their while.**

The first step to being off leash is gentle focus, and eye contact and having your dog look at you and let's face it sometimes just being aware that you exist, so play this fun game with zero pressure.....yes you need to take that one in... zero pressure!

So let's get down to business, how do you play the game, let's look at the details!

Okay so you place your food down, make sure your dog shows interest, you just need to place a small

bit, if it makes it easier for you or your dog place the small bit of food in a bowl. Your dog will automatically look towards the food and hopefully go to eat the food you have placed down. You can then super animate the food - but only if you need to! This could simply be a tiny part of their dinner however you feed (all diets can be worked into this) and the moment they do take that food, they will look back at you for the game to restart or to see what's next - dogs are incredibly cool like that, and your goal is to spot that moment. So, be ready to mark the moment when your dog finishes eating food and looks at you, this moment is something super special! This 'marking' can be an event, you can use a specific word (e.g. 'yes' or 'nice') but you can also use a more specific and clear quality marker like a clicker, this really is down to you and what you prefer. Also feed your dog for that look! Then repeat the process again for as many repetitions as suit your time scale!

“  
**The first step to being off  
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your dog look at you**  
”





## GAME 2.

# I LOVE MY NAME GAME

So it's **SO** fundamental that in being reliable, and consistent in dog training you need a **100% reliable recall** - calling your dog back is **KEY** – you want to be able to recall and you want to be able to get your dog's attention in any situation at all. To do this you need **100% confidence** that your dog will respond to your call.

What we want to see is that your dog's eyes literally sparkle and their energy changes and that they immediately respond when they hear their name! To do this, we add a **TONNE** of value to the name by reinforcing everytime **YOUR** dog hears that special word! So.....let's **PLAY!**

Throw a piece of food out. Something they will see! Your dog will **WANT** to go to get it, if you need to then animate it but ideally just the throwing will suffice.

The dog will then want to turn back to you to look for the next piece. Just before they turn, say their name, you will become an expert at spotting that moment. When they are back at you, hopefully **FAST** then you can and should reward for coming back. It sounds simple right? Too simple almost! It really is that simple!

*TOP TIP: Only throw out one piece of food at a time it makes it cleaner and more straight forward for both you and your dog and make sure it is easy food for your dog to find to increase the speed of repetitions and it will help to avoid too much sniffing! Don't nag your dog back to you, the game will work MAGIC!*

“  
your dog's eyes literally sparkle and their energy changes and that they immediately respond when they hear their name!  
”



# GAME 3. FUNDER GAME

This is a super great game that incorporates movement, reinforcement and proximity all into one fun fast session. It is an energy game for you and your dog and really can be wherever possible should be played in a variety of different environments!

Have large pieces of food that your dog can find easily. Bowl the food through your legs behind you and practice your throwing in advance of the game!

Your dog will follow through, with confidence and hopefully chase and then eat the food. Whilst they are eating the food you turn around before they have even noticed and seamlessly. As the dog finishes eating and looks back at you, say your marker (e.g. 'yes') and reward by throwing another piece of food between your legs - now how much **FUN** is that - energy **UP!**

*TOP TIPS – count out a specific number of food pieces, lets say 10 – that is more than enough repetitions in one go. Throw a little bit further so that your dog has a chance to go into a 'canter' pace.*





# GAME 4. MAGIC HAND

**Now you are in for a complete treat. This is one of our absoluteDogs favourites and has helped to change focus for so many of our dogs and our students' dogs! This is a completely awesome game that teaches your dog to want to look up at you and to find joy and love from your hand and basically it leads beautifully to FOCUS.**

First stage – can your dog catch? This is a super obvious one but possibly the most important! You need to start by dropping the food in front of your dog's nose – you need to be good with your aim! Mix it up to get it right! Don't worry if your dog doesn't catch straight away, your dog **WILL** get this! He will!

Once your dog is beginning the catching stages or starting to catch reliably, you should see that they are starting to focus upwards to your hand. Now this is where the game starts to get really exciting and you will see that they love it because they are getting rewarded by falling pieces of food from the sky, for a dog nothing could be cooler.

As your dog gets even better at this game, start to move your body position then take it on the road. Slowly slowly catchy monkey, it will happen and it will work!

*TOP TIP: Be sure to keep the excitement and fun up! This is a focus game so will need lots of breaks and don't over do any one session!*

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”





# GAME 5. DOUBLE LEASH GAME

**This is such a powerful game and it has massively and real practical application that you will be able to relate to every day life!**

How often do you unclip the leash and that triggers your dog to **GO**? Or maybe he just gets crazy excited - but we know that this is the start to a downward spiral - we need to have the best relationship as soon as we start our walk to get the very best results and we need arousal balance!

This game is most definitely for **YOU!** With rehearsal and practice, this will completely change the emotion of what happens when you unclip that lead and that has super cool results!

For this you need your dog on a collar or harness, and a double ended lead / or 2 leads if you don't have a double clipped one available. Whatever you have we can make it work! Unclip one of the clips/leads. Then feed your dog with your other hand. Clip the lead back on and feed! It's super fun to hear the clip of your lead!

Play this out and about everywhere. Ultimately this clip becomes a trigger of focus! The lead = AWESOME news! Keep mixing this up! For example: unclip once and feed. Unclip twice and feed. See if your dog's a gambler, we bet they are!

Your dog will learn that good things happen when lead comes off. The behaviour becomes different removing the lead becomes a calm event rather than a high arousal activity.

This game could be a true lifesaver! Lead = **FOCUS!**

“  
How often  
do you unclip  
the leash and  
that triggers  
your dog  
to GO?  
”



# GAME 6. LEASH OFF PARTY ON GAME

**This is a really, really important and FUN game. GAMES games games are the way forwards! They are the best way to an amazing relationship with your dog!**

So many people let their lead go and the immediate worry is where the dog is going to go? Will he run away? Visit a stranger or catch a critter!?

We need to communicate the concept that as soon as the lead comes off, that you are the most fun and important thing in the environment. **Leash Off Party On!**

Unclip your lead (you can have a long line or double clip lead if required - whatever you feel best using!) Then do whatever is the best and most exciting

thing that you can play with your dog. That might be jumping around, racing them, catching you for food/ toy, tug, chase, batch, or one of the games you have already learnt with us, basically anything that involves you! We really want their world to be about you and the **FUN!** This needs to be something to get them immediately engaged and happy. The concept is simple - as soon as lead comes off, the game starts! And it really does start!

You want to demonstrate to your dog a stark contrast between what happens on and off lead. We need you to be seen as high value to them!

So on lead is fun and rewarding for sure, but off lead, the **PARTY** starts so that they know they need to keep a pretty close eye on us, it's their job and their responsibility to do so. However, don't make coming back on lead too boring – keep the fun, keep the **JOY.**

“  
communicate  
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as soon as the  
lead comes off,  
that you are  
the most fun  
and important  
thing in the  
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”





# GAME 7. MIGHTY MIDDLE GAME

Now this really is as mighty and awesome as it sounds! Mighty Middle is a super cool control position and a good emergency recall. It builds value and teaches dogs fun proximity and works with the games concept to allow your dog a pressure free relationship.

Standing with your legs apart and your dog between them, apply a little bit of push back/pressure backwards to your dogs chest or wherever is most appropriate. As you let go of your dog, remember to use appropriate pressure to your dogs weight and size, your dogs natural reflex is to move forwards – Reward and reward fast! Remember **FAST AND FUN** is the key!

Once they get the hang of that, place your food behind you, then as they eat that piece of food, they will offer coming forward again to find the next piece of food. Reward! Bonus! **WOW!**

Your next step is to mix this up – change the placement of the food (for example place to your left or right instead of behind you change it up for the better). Can your dog come back into your middle? Work the pieces of food around the clock and see that your dog can find middle from any position at all, help to make your dog the genius you always knew that they could be!

*Top Tip: practice middle anywhere and everywhere - it's a game for every single venue!*



“  
Mighty Middle  
is a super cool  
control position  
and a good  
emergency  
recall. It builds  
value and  
teaches dogs fun  
proximity  
”



## GAME 8.

# CATCH ME IF YOU CAN GAME

**WOW! This is a fast and fun one, in fact it may even be our favourite.**

This game incorporates unpredictability and variety into training your off-leash reliability and really does move us towards being in a place where the dog wants to be with you and not away from you. Proximity is **FUN!**

For this game we like to use a natural obstacle, e.g. a tree, a park bench or something similar - as long as you can't get hurt on it. Be sensible!

Let your dog off leash and give them that game on look! If they look game then slowly and then quickly start running around the obstacle. Your dog will catch

you pretty quickly – when they catch up with you, **REWARD!** Go crazy! This is your permission to be a little weird, go on be **NUTS!** The reward you choose to use really can be anything at all – food or toys or whatever really works for you! To be honest anything that your dog really and truly loves!

This game can also be incorporated into your recall which really is top level fun. Once you have recalled run off and let them catch you! Ready, steady **GO!**

“  
move us towards being in a place  
where the dog wants to be with you  
and not away from you.  
Proximity is FUN!  
”



# GAME 9. THE WANGER GAME

**Sounds FUN huh? This one is a powerful game and builds a lot of value in us. It gives us controlled focus and balances up the arousal.**

Many of us have 'chuck-it' throwers and use them to launch balls (and ultimately value) away from us into infinity and beyond! Here at absolute HQ we turn that on its head and we have a **COOL** way to use them just a touch differently and bring the focus back to us. How **AWESOME!**

We pop a piece of food, preferably a piece that will stick on to it, and then place that into the wanger, PUSH it down and then have it just above the dogs head to create beautiful upward focus. When they look at it, drop the wanger down and feed them from it. This gives focus and proximity!

Once they get the idea that the wanger holds value, and good value at that, you can start to walk with it – I bet your dog will follow you and keep the upward focus!

**We wouldn't be without the wanger!**

“  
I bet your dog  
will follow you  
and keep the  
upward focus!

”





# GAME 10. THE WHIP GAME

**Everyone loves the Whip Game – it teaches so much fun and it is super high value. Possibly one of the most exciting games you could play with your dog and for sure if you have a chaser this is the game to play!**

For this game all you will need is a horse lunge whip and a toy attachment. We like the tug-e-nuff attachments and you can find these via their website <https://tug-e-nuff.co.uk>

Most dogs naturally love the whip, but if they don't then don't worry – you can easily develop this. It's also a super good way of exercising a dog with limited space or time, this game has many many endless purposes! Be sure to keep your sessions short, warm your dog up beforehand and **COOL** them down afterwards or maybe even deliver a stuffed bone or treat and try to keep your dog really engaged and excited during the session.

If you need to introduce a slight restrain - have a friend who your dog trusts and who holds them back and then releases them onto the whip to add engagement and excitement!

You can animate the whip and have the dog chase after the toy if it makes it easier for you. Try to let them catch it and enjoy and celebrate the win, but if they loosen their grip then whip the toy away and essentially restart the game. Remember a sloppy mouth loses lunch, no self respectful rabbit would hang around for a second bite! The dogs love it!!!!

*TOP TIP: Some dogs will like to stalk the whip, you don't want this really so get the dog moving, remember movement stops your dog from stalking! You can do this by running away, racing movements and generally getting the dog moving after you, or the toy, or alternately you can animate the toy more - whatever it takes to get your dog moving for sure is the key to unlock the whip game door!*

“  
**The Whip Game. Possibly one of the most exciting games you could play with your dog**  
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