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On Retrieving

By Adam Katz

Dear Adam,

About 6 weeks ago, I acquired a border collie through the local SPCA.

She is about 18–24 months old. I have no idea of her history. All I can say is that "Rosie" is a very smart dog. Rosie is a quick learner and eager to please me. She knows the word "NO", knows how to sit, is housebroken, comes when commanded to, stays within the borders on my farm, and comes wherever she is when I ring a Tibetan bell.

My Question: Since Rosie is from a working breed, I would like to teach her how to fetch so that she can get as much exercise as possible. How do I go about that, whether it is tennis ball or a Frisbee? I am sure once I have a method, it will take her no time to learn. Could you possibly give me some hints?

PS – I loved your book and use many of your ideas to acclimate Rosie to her new surroundings and ground rules. My friends think I am "nuts" when I spit in my dog's food bowl and talk about being the alpha dog. However, they have very ill-mannered pets and I have one very nice dog!

I look forward to you reply, Katharine

Dear Katharine:

Thanks for the e-mail.

I would suggest re-reading the section in the book on "How to speed up training results by using the ball and food drive!" on page 53.

This will give you the necessary information regarding how to build up the dog's natural drive to chase the ball (or any other object). This is basically what is known as a "play retrieve".

If the dog has absolutely NO prey drive, then you won't be able to do this with her.

On Retrieving

The other type of retrieve is called a "trained retrieve," where you actually teach the dog to formally pick up an object and not release it until give a specific command. Most trainers will use the dog's natural drive to teach the dog to do this exercise FAST and with a lot of fun and outgoing attitude. And this is the proper way to do it, if you're teaching a trained retrieve. (This would be appropriate for a service guide dog, for example).

The only problem with the trained retrieve for the purposes of giving the dog some exercise is that, although the trained retrieve CAN be taught to any dog— regardless of the amount of drive— you simply won't get the dog to run fast if he has no natural ball drive.

Within the next couple of months I will be teaching my dog, Forbes, how to do a trained retrieve so that he can carry items in his mouth for an indefinite period of time.

You've probably already read about how Forbes carries my empty McDonald's bag over to the trash can after breakfast, when we return from our daily McHeroin with Egg, Hash Brown and coffee. This is a play retrieve Forbes is doing. When he gets tired, or is simply disinterested, he spits it out. Once I teach him the trained retrieve, he will be able to carry a bag, or a hammer, or a basket (or any object) in his mouth for the duration of an entire 1 mile walk. You can also build on this behavior by teaching the dog to pick things up... like the phone. Or a can of beer!

That's all for now, folks! Adam

Adam G. Katz is the author of the book, "Secrets of a Professional Dog Trainer: An Insider's Guide To The Most Jealously Guarded Dog Training Secrets In History." Get a free copy of his report "Games To Play With Your Dog" when you sign up for his free weekly dog training tips e-zine at:

<http://www.dogproblems.com>

Comparing Goldendoodles and Labradoodles

By Edie MacKenzie

Goldendoodle and Labradoodle breeder Michael Waggenbach, of Sunshine Acres feels, "For a therapy dog, the Goldendoodle is the better choice. I'm not sure what it is, but they don't tend to dust all the tabletops when walking into a hospital or an elderly home, where the Labradoodles' tails are going back forth so fast they dust every thing off."

During an interview with Indiana Doodle Owners Group founder Beth Line, she said, "There's a very distinct difference between Labradoodles and Goldendoodles," Beth said. "As an owner and observer of behavioral traits I see a big difference. It takes more to convince the Labradoodles to come into your environment - into your space. They will evaluate you before they walk into your area. And, they're very loyal, friendly, all the things Labs are, but they need to be convinced that walking into your space is a good idea. They won't come right in."

On Retrieving

"They're also strong. They have very strong necks and they're going to pull more. And their coats are going to be different. I tell the difference between the F1 Labradoodle and Goldendoodle by their coat. It stands to reason a lab's coat is short. Add some poodle to it and it's going to have some length and weight. However, you aren't going to find a six inch long wavy, curly coat on an F1 Labradoodle because there's nowhere for that 6–inches to come from genetically. A lab has a short coat and the poodle has curl.

"Labradoodles (F1) are also going to tend to go more terrier like - wiry. They also tend to be weightier and their body shape will be a little boxier."

"The Goldendoodle on the other hand, when they reach their adult coats, their hair is going to grow 4 to 6 inches long and has a wavy look or a curl to it because of the poodle. It's the same formula, more curl equals less shedding and more wave equals higher shedding."

"Conceptually, Golden Retrievers influence the Goldendoodle causing them to be more zestful. They'll come into your space immediately. They don't sit back, they come into it immediately and are happy to visit with you. They are happy, affectionate, and happy to roll on you. They don't have the delay of making a decision. They make their decision well before they decide to come to you."

"Goldendoodles are mouthier. Their mouth will be more active when they are puppies and you have to train them not to be mouthy, because they'll use that mouth on you somewhere! That's where they get their information. I have trained my Goldendoodles not to put their mouths on people by simply taking one of their other natural tendencies (retrieving) and replacing the mouthing with retrieving a toy. Their natural desire to retrieve keeps their mouths occupied with a toy."

"So, they are mouthier than the Labradoodle puppy. I referred to the Goldendoodle as a very zestful and happy with life kind of being. The Labradoodle has a sense of loyalty and appreciation, whereas the Goldendoodle has a wonderful, life of the party, personality."

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Edie MacKenzie is the author of a comprehensive guide to Labradoodles that covers, Multi–gens, F1's,

choosing a breeder, health considerations, and training and discipline. Discover the principles of raising healthy, happy, and well–tempered Labradoodles even if you've never owned a dog. You can read about The Definitive Guide to Labradoodles at

<http://www.labradoodle–guide.com>

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