

Dog Training Articles By Beth Bradley

MOTIVATING WITH A BACKTIE

The use of a back tie is a great motivational tool for a dog because it frustrates him. It builds great drive and attention to you as the handler. You can use it for all commands, teaching a send away, dumbbell motivation, stays, etc.

Tie your dog on a 10-15 foot leash to something sturdy on a buckle collar or leash. Take him to the end of the line so he doesn't correct himself. Tease your dog for a tug (jute roll) by throwing the toy back and forth, kick it w/ your foot. Once dog is excited, remove him from the back tie and hold him back so he CAN NOT Reach the Toy. Tease again by kicking the toy w/ your foot and then either pick up the toy or allow your dog to get it (almost like he is stealing it from you). Get the toy back if you allowed him to steal it and then begin attention heeling. You can do the same thing with Sit and Down, except keep your dog tied while you are commanding. Once he responds verbally praise and reward him by allowing him to 'catch' the tug.

When I am working with a dog and he needs a hard correction, I will do it on the back tie first. This way instead of losing drive because of the correction, drive is built because of the tug toy and play. You can add heavy corrections and not lose drive. The back tie is also something you can put your dog back on in the middle of a training session, to bring your dog up or before an exercise your dog doesn't like or to build drive and because of hard corrections. If I am working with a dog that had a bad session the day before with, for example, Motion exercises, the following day I would do the same but on the back tie. The back tie puts the Motion exercises back in a good light because the back tie is associated with fun.

You can always end with a back tie also, tease your dog, run the toy back to your vehicle or home and then come back and release your dog leaving him frustrated. Always end with your dog wanting more.