



OBJECTIVES OF THIS NON-COMPETITIVE GAME

The dog learns to run around a traffic cone (or similar object) until it can do so by being sent to the cone over a distance of approximately 51ft (15.3m). This is a great way to teach your dog to run on ahead of you, and also gives you the opportunity of teaching your dog directional commands (left & right turn) that can be used in Agility.

The handler learns –

- How to teach a dog to follow a target stick that is being held by another person, yet return to the handler for its reward. The dog can also learn Round by being lured or guided around the cone by a helper, or a ball can be placed behind the cone so that the dog retrieves it as it runs around the cone.
- Dogs have a “critical distance” (ie a distance at which the dog is reluctant to venture further away from its handler) when learning send-aways. As the training of Round progresses and the distance between the traffic cone and the handler increases, the dog will suddenly become reluctant to run that far away and further positive and rewarding training will be needed to overcome these fears.
- To give simple vocal commands to achieve the exercise rather than have the dog become too dependant on the handler being nearby as it turns.

The dog learns –

- Not to become too dependant on its handler’s body movements as it runs towards the traffic cone, but to concentrate on what is in front of it.
- That the traffic cone is always placed in exactly the same position each time the dog is sent to run around it. As the distance in training is increased the handler moves further from the cone, yet the dog is still confident as the cone has not been moved. This is how a dog learns to run further than its “critical distance”.

STAGES (See the website for full details on how to train each stage, also please refer to the paragraph in the box on either the Recall or Bounce leaflet)

* Each test or training session should not be more than five attempts, and a rest period of at least an hour should be allowed if a dog is doing more than one test/training session in a day (see “Latent Learning” on the Understanding your Dog section of the website)

STARTERS (The dog learns how to do the Game)

Cert. 1 The dog learns to run around a traffic cone by using one of a variety of different methods, eventually the cone is 25ft (7.5m) from the handler. The dog must do **three out of five attempts correctly** before progressing on to Starters Level Two*.

Cert. 2 The handler gradually moves further back from the traffic cone until they are 51ft (15.3m) from it. The dog must do **three out of five** correct Round runs to pass this stage*. A magenta, yellow and white rosette will be awarded by Dog-Games when the dog has achieved Round Starters Certificates 1 and 2.

BRONZE (Learns to do the Game consistently while running in different directions in the training lane)

A Round Bronze Certificate will be awarded for each successful session of **five out of five** correct Round runs*. The handler and trainer/helper should stand at alternate ends of the training lane for each certificate (eg. cert 1 & 3 left to right, cert 2 right to left) so that the dog becomes used to doing Round in different directions within the environment. A magenta, yellow and bronze rosette will be awarded by Dog-Games when the dog has achieved **3 Bronze certificates**.

SILVER** (Learns to do the Game with the distraction of other dogs nearby in the other lane)

A Round Silver Certificate will be awarded for each successful session of **five out of five** correct Round runs*, despite the distraction of the other dog(s) running in a netted lane nearby. A magenta, yellow and silver rosette will be awarded by Dog-Games when the dog has achieved **all 3 Silver certificates**.

Cert. 1 Dog does Round while another dog doing Dog-Games is **released at the same time** in the other lane.

Cert. 2 Dog does Round while another dog is **returning from its 51ft marker** in a nearby lane.

Cert. 3 Dog does Round while one or more dogs run in **various directions** doing DOG-GAMES in the other lane.

GOLD (Learns to do the Game while another dog is playing the Game in the same lane)

A Round Gold Certificate will be awarded for each successful session of **five out of five** correct Round runs*, while another dog plays Round in the same lane. If possible, a different distraction dog should be used for each certificate. A magenta, yellow and gold rosette will be awarded when the dog has achieved all 3 Gold certificates.

PLATINUM (Learns to do the Game everywhere)

The dog repeats a Gold Certificate at **three different venues** so that the dog understands that it must do the Game not only at the training ground but at these other distracting locations as well. A Round Platinum Certificate will be awarded for each successful session of **five out of five** correct Round runs*, despite the distraction of the new venue and the other dogs. A four-tier magenta and yellow rosette and a silver-plated salver trophy will be awarded by Dog-Games when the dog has achieved **all 3 Platinum certificates**.

**In Silver, plastic netting should be used between lanes in the interests of dog safety