

**Treat preference test**

**Variety is the spice of life!**

A varied diet is not only good for your puppy but it can be useful when we are trying to teach our puppy new things particularly if those things are difficult and if we’re in a place that’s really distracting and of course we all work harder for things that we really like and want.

**What’s worth £5 and what’s worth £1000 to your puppy?**

The choice your puppy makes is going to be what reinforces it the most, and this is important if we want our puppy to pay attention to us in really distracting environments, like puppy classes or when out on walks. But how do we know what our puppy likes?

**Finding out our pups reward preferences**

First we need a selection of food rewards below is a list of examples

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Carrot | Apple |
| Cheese | Bacon |
| Blueberries | Hot dog |
| Kibble | Cocktail sausage |
|  |  |

Choose two of these foods and take two pieces of those two food we’ll call then food 1 and food 2.

You will then ask your puppy to sit 3 times

The first time you will reward with food 1

The Second time you will reward with food 2.

The third time you will have food 1 in your left hand and food 2 in your right hand and you will bring them down in front of your puppy to sniff so it’s knows it has a choice then bring your hands apart and open them allowing the puppy to choose which food to take first.

This demonstrates what the puppy’s preference is and what it will in turn find the most reinforcing. It also introduces new smells to your puppy and improves the puppy’s diet by adding to it.

On the next page you will find a table where you can make a note of the different foods you try and the ones your puppy prefers.

**Example**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Food** | **Preference** |
| **1** | apple | x |
| **2** | carrot |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Food** | **Preference** |
| **1** |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |
| **1** |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |
| **1** |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |
| **1** |  |  |
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