

Nose Work Guideline for Treats

Below are examples of different treats and food that other nose work students have used, from low to high value. I recommend using high value or super high value for nose work. It may seem like your dog will work for low or medium value food in the initial stages, but this may change once he/she starts searching in distracting environments or for more challenging hides. If your dog has a strong history of always receiving high value rewards, then he will more likely be able to ignore distractions and overcome challenges in the environment. Also, when the dog transitions to target odor we want the dog to associate it with high value rewards!

LOW VALUE

- Dry dog biscuits like Milk Bone
- Kibble

MEDIUM VALUE

- Lamb jerky strips from Costco
- Zukes-type training treats
- Charlee Bear, Beggin' Strips
- Other packaged dog treats

HIGH VALUE

- Freeze dried dog treats such as liver/fish/meat
- Cheese
- Freshpet Vital and other refrigerated dog food/treats
- Happy Howie's treat roll

SUPER HIGH VALUE

- Sliced hot dog
- Cold cuts (turkey, ham, bologna)
- Steak, chicken^^, liver and other cooked meat and fish (i.e. not packaged dog treats)
- Liverwurst, pâté, raw dog food (these can be messy for class settings but can be used at home)

^^ Costco sells packages of pre-grilled chicken that are easy to cut up into small pieces. It's cheaper than dog treats.

Please see my blog below for photos of the above treats and other ideas:

<http://woofpackhawaii.blogspot.com/2011/09/training-treats-biscuit-aint-gonna-cut.html>

All treats will ideally be cut up into small pieces about 1/4 to 3/8 inches in size. It is more rewarding for the dog to receive many small pieces over a duration of time, rather than one big treat that he can inhale in 1 second! I also recommend using soft, moist treats that are easy for the dog to eat quickly.