

Kay Laurence's

SheepBalls®

Start Right

Illustrations by Christian Østensen

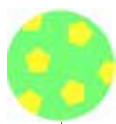


Good Balls



Good Balls are easy to watch and focus
Great to capture and grab

Good Balls are easy to throw and kick accurately



x3

Soft Football

(IKEA) 22cm 8"

Top Marks, best choice for Dog and Person
Washable
Not so good on wet grass



OR

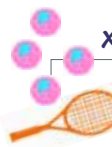


x3

Lattice Ball

Med - Large

High Marks, good choice for Dog and Person
Good on wet grass
Poor in long grass



x5

Soft Ball

8cm 3-4"

Great for indoors
Racquet can be handy



x3

Discs

Cloth or Soft Rubber

Good for distance
Need practice both hands



Tennis Ball



Not recommended.
Poor for the Dog to see and capture. Too chewy
Bad for kicking

Playing Field should be free from obstacles, no chairs, trees or precious plants

No other dogs

Spacious to encourage the dog to work at a distance

Safety

No kicking balls into the dog's face
Keep balls locked away when not playing



No high leaping for the ball

Care

Play for short periods
6-10 throws or kicks

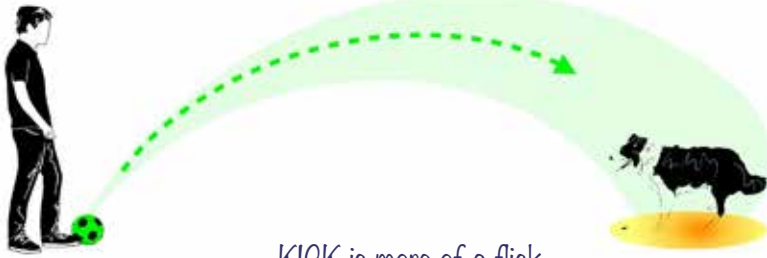
Brain rest is very important



Check our website for ball sources

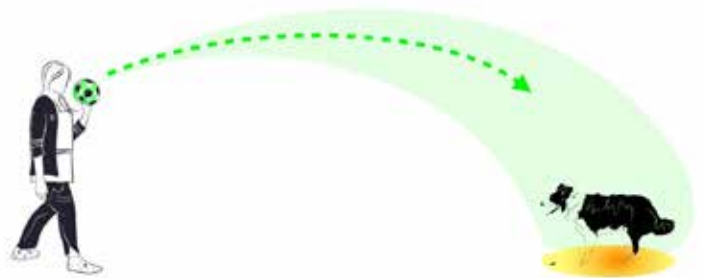
Balls Must Behave

This is down to you

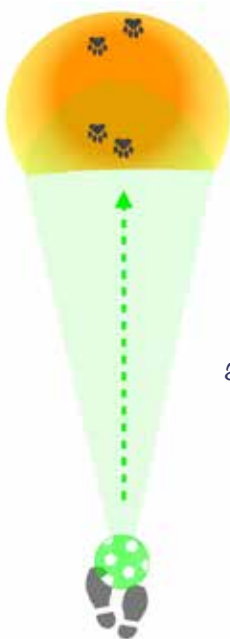


KICK is more of a flick

Always KICK forwards
LOOK where you are throwing



SHEEPBALL



This KICK is
a **REWARD**



WALK out with your
balls in a bag



Give It a Wiggle

Toe under ball

Great to catch the eye
Prepare the Dog

PRACTICE?

Invest time to practice your skills.
When you can kick or throw in a
beautiful parabola to your waiting dog
their **BRAIN** will experience pure joy



When your kick promises a successful
capture your dog will be there again
and again



**BALL is
IN PLAY**



CARRY balls under arm
when NOT in play

YOUR Ball is Best Ball

Step 2

SHEEP BALLS®

1

Throw your first ball to get the dog to chase to a good distance

place the next ball ready



PARADE!!

Let your dog enjoy their capture, have a PARTY

PARADE!! is very important to relieve any stresses and we can see when the dog WANTS to play again, rather than MUST

when they notice your ball, give it a wiggle

2

REWARD kick or throw: they gave up their ball to join in your game

PARADE!!

repeat this several times, over a few sessions



What is your dog LEARNING?

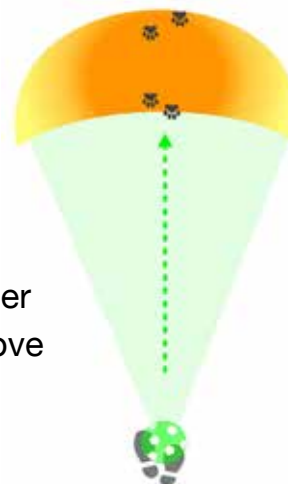
YOUR ball is more fun; they want to stop it escaping from you

It will give them GREAT satisfaction, delight and REWARD

when your dog PARADES less and is keen to join you

3

Kick or throw to a wider goal for the dog to move to capture



4

BUILD the anticipation and wait a few seconds before a kick while they are standing still



This ANTICIPATION is when the dopamine will be flooding the dog's system and giving them the pleasure from their learning

5

Encourage the dog to HOLD their distance

HOLDING a distance is more important than the distance between you and your dog



If your dog is coming forward, check you are kicking or throwing in the perfect ARC



If your dog is stealing the ball from your feet use a racquet as a shield and protector



NO retrieve required; let your dog forget retrieve and hold distance when you walk to the next ball



Balls want to Escape

SHEEPBALL[®]

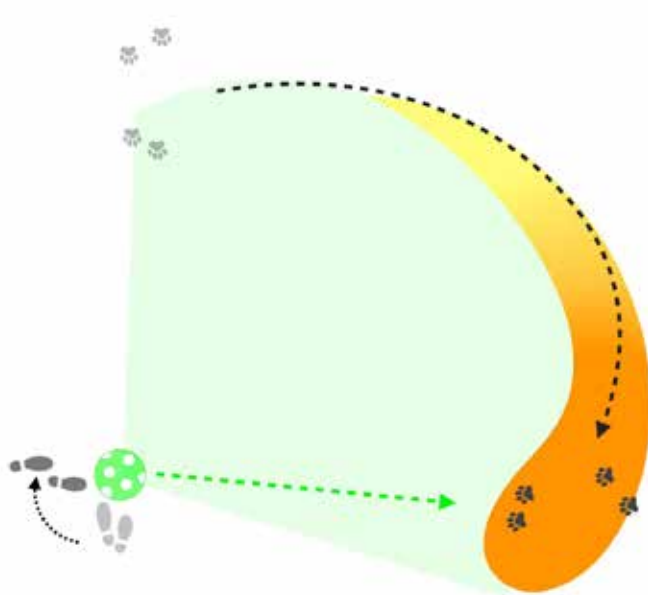
6 With your dog waiting in anticipation, turn 90° to kick and let the ball escape

repeat this several times, over a few sessions;
vary turning left and right

Your dog will be learning that when you make the turn the ball escapes in a predictable direction.



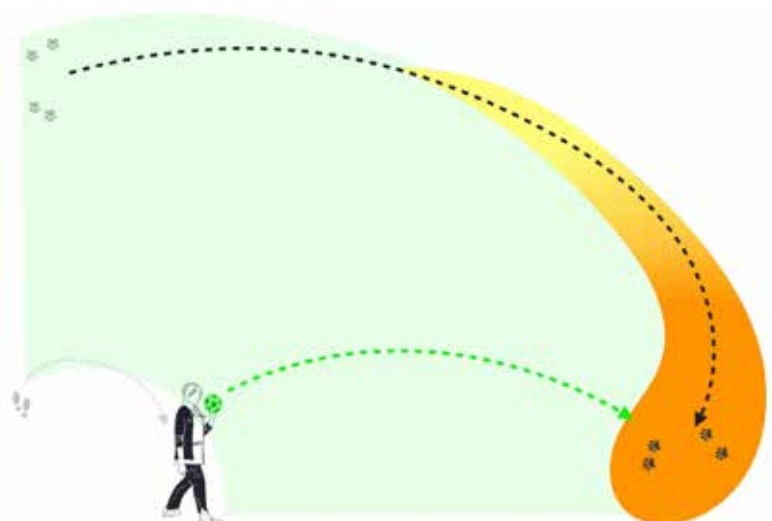
This will URGE them to move to prevent the escapee.



Your focal point

Your dog will learn what you are focussed on; be careful NOT to be watching the dog.
Look ahead to the REWARD spot.

if your dog is a bit sticky and reluctant to move, walk a small circle to encourage the dog to follow before the throw





Learn More

Our website has a rich selection of resources where you can learn more about your dog, their heritage, specialised courses, articles and advice from experienced sheepdog experts.



ONLINE COURSES held regularly

Sheepballs®

A practical 8 week course with individualised coaching to develop your skills and those of your sheepdog. Use the interaction to release and shape the innate behaviours your dog has inherited

The Wrong Sheep

A practical 8 week course with individual coaching to develop the skills to manage a dog who is prone to chasing: traffic, bikes, joggers etc. Understand why this is happening, and be able to select good management techniques and activities to rebalance the learning.

ONLINE WORKBOOK

Learning About Border Collies

Learn about their heritage and how to bring a good quality of life to your companion, enjoy games designed specifically for collies and understand their quirks and special needs.

If you are looking for help or courses to learn more about Sheepballs®, always seek an approved member of our Teaching Team. They have proven their skills with their own dog, achieved a high standard of understanding and are skilful at arranging the learning to bring out the very best in your collie.

Contact us if you are interested in more details: courses@learningaboutdogs.com

