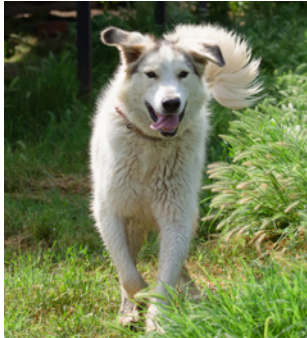




TIERÄRZTE IM EINSATZ
VÉTÉRINAIRES EN ACTION
VETERINARI IN AZIONE
VETS IN ACTION



Au, April 2020

Dogs in times of Covid19 – Tips and tricks for at home

Covid19 has changed the world for animals too in Switzerland. Long walks in the forests and fields are often lacking, many dogs are only out and about for a fraction of the time that they are used to. **Vets in Action** have put some thought into what you can do so that your dog doesn't get cabin fever and apply themselves to fetching your slippers instead of going for walkies.

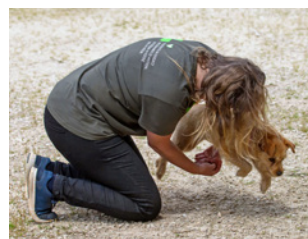
The PET bottles

Pierce two holes halfway up an empty PET bottle and put a pencil or small stick through the holes so that the bottle can turn. Put a few treats into the bottle and let your dog spin it until the treats fall out.



Running zigzags – Jumping over a stick – Running through the tunnel

Lead your dog around your legs with a treat, or teach them to jump over your legs, over a stick or through a hoop. Associate the movement you are encouraging with the treat with a command/ word like “jump”, “zigzag” or similar. Whenever they do the trick well, they get a treat. After a few practices, the dog will jump or zigzag around your legs even without a treat. If you don't have a hoop, then you can also make a circle with your arms (if you are on your own then you can just make the upper arc and hold the treat in the lower hand and guide the dog).



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If you don't have a tunnel, then you can easily build one by laying a towel that reaches to the floor over a chair. Or balance a broom between two chairs and have the dog jump over it.

Less movement – More excitement when searching for food

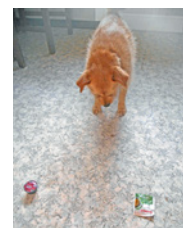
In order to make up for the lack of movement, you can make feeding more strenuous than it would otherwise be. Your dog has a great sense of smell. **Searching for around 20 minutes with their nose tires them out as much as a 2-hour walk.** Make them search for their food more during this time. Hide part of their food around your home or in a feeding ball if you have one. If you have a feed bag, let the dog eat from it and then hide the bag again. When they find it, they can eat some more. Or hide the food in a box under crumpled up paper.

The trick with the tea

Did you know that dogs can easily tell different varieties of tea apart? Give

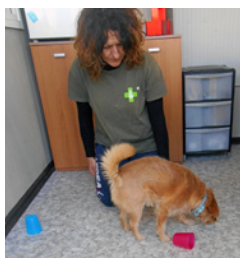


your dog a teabag to sniff. When they sniff it, they get a treat. Put the teabag a bit further away and say “green tea” or “peppermint”, for example. When they sniff it again, then they get the next treat. You can thus hide the teabag further and further away. You can also add other varieties of tea (or coffee capsules) later. You'll see – your dog can become a real tea expert, and they need their natural ability to work with their nose to do so.



The right beaker

Place two beakers upside down and, without the dog seeing, place a bit of food under one. Clearly indicate the beaker with the food using your arm. If the dog goes to this beaker, then they get the food. If they go to the other beaker first, then block the food beaker, take the food out and start again.



After practising a few times, you can replace the arm movement with pointing with your finger or even just looking in the right direction. The dog is easily able to read your body language and will learn that there's something good where you're indicating.



Please remember that your dog reaches the limits of their ability to concentrate after 15 to 20 minutes, so it's better to work with them more often rather than for longer.

Of course, **Vets in Action** are continuing to act on behalf of animals in Greece, Bulgaria and Italy as well. **Immediately after the limitations were announced, we applied for permits to be able to continue feeding and providing medical care for animals.** This is only possible thanks to you, dear donors.

We and all our animals wish you all the best from the bottom of our hearts and hope that you and your animals are staying well and healthy in this challenging time.

Vets in Action foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Widler".

Maja Widler
Member of the Foundation Board

PS: you can download and forward this flyer at www.stie.ch.