

## **FETCH**

The following information has been adapted from Dr. Brenda Griffin's [Playing Games with Shelter Dogs](#)

Fetch is a great game for any dog that can be enticed into the game—and a great way for a potential adopter to connect with the dog. Everyone seems to love a good game of fetch with a dog!

An easy and fun way to teach a dog to play fetch is to use the two-toy fetch method.

### **Two-Toy Fetch Method:**

#### **Materials:**

- 2 identical dog toys- plush dog toys or tennis balls or whatever the dog likes

#### **What to do:**

1. Get two **identical** dog toys. It is very important that the two toys be exactly the same so the dog will like each of them just the same. If they are different, he will likely prefer one over the other, and this technique will not work!
2. Offer the dog one of the two toys and let him play with it – don't take it away from him!
3. Then, wave the second other toy – he will likely drop the first one and grab the second one.
4. Alternate the toys. You may playfully tease the dog to entice him.
5. Next, begin tossing one of the toys – only a couple of feet at first.
6. As soon as the dog goes to get the toy, call and encourage him to come back – run backwards to encourage him to follow you if necessary.
7. When he reaches you, show him the other toy. He will probably want to get the other toy. He may drop the other one he has – or you can trade him for a treat.
8. Then, throw the second toy. He will then run after it and you can start the process over again.



Start slowly and build up over time. Always stop for the day before the dog tires of the game.



Special toys designated for FETCH should be put away unless you are actually playing the game with the dog – this will help to keep them fresh and enticing, leaving the dog wanting more.