



THE TACTILE BRAIN GAME GUIDE

3 Unconventional DIY Olfactory Challenges for High-Energy Paws

Elevate Your Dog's Scent Work! Standard puzzle games often lack micro-level physical engagement. These 3 unique, zero-cost olfactory challenges combine precise sniffing with light structural manipulation—allowing dogs to use low-impact paw work, nose-nudging, and spatial problem-solving to work out intense mental energy without fatigue or strain.

PRO TIP FOR MAXIMUM ENGAGEMENT:

Use lightweight household props and highly aromatic, tiny treat bits. Keep the setup easily movable so your dog can navigate around it effortlessly!

Game 1: The Egg Carton Trap-Door

Difficulty: Intermediate | **Items Needed:** Empty Cardboard Egg Carton + 6-12 Socks or Plastic Caps

This game challenges nose precision and delicate levering, requiring your dog to figure out how to lift obstacles out of tiny crevices.

Step 1 (The Hide): Drop small, aromatic treats inside 4-5 cups of an open cardboard egg carton.

Step 2 (The Trap): Stuff a balled-up sock or light plastic bottle cap tightly into EVERY cup (both full and empty).

Step 3 (The Search): Place the carton on the floor. Your dog must sniff out which cups contain food and pull the sock out with their teeth or nudge it away with their nose.

Step 4 (Level Up): Close the egg carton lid lightly without latching it once they master the open setup!

Game 2: The Vertical Shoe-Organizer Maze

Difficulty: Advanced | **Items Needed:** Hanging Fabric Shoe Organizer / Low Shelf + Scrap Fabric

Encourages vertical sniffing, nose-nudging, and micro-climbing without high-impact jumping.

Step 1 (Setup): Hang a soft fabric shoe organizer low on a door so the bottom 2-3 rows are completely within reach of your dog's nose.



Step 2 (The Bait): Hide treats deep inside only 2 pockets on the lowest rows.

Step 3 (The Obstacle): Tuck a light washcloth loosely into the front of those pockets as a curtain.

Step 4 (The Search): Let your dog nose through the fabric curtains to locate and extract the treats.

Game 3: The Tissue Box Tunnel Roll

Difficulty: Intermediate | **Items Needed:** 3-4 Empty Tissue Boxes or Paper Towel Rolls + Treats

Taps into tactile exploration by turning light paper rolls into rolling puzzle cylinders.

Step 1 (The Roll): Wrap a treat inside a small square of parchment or brown paper.

Step 2 (The Tunnel): Push the wrapped treat inside an empty paper towel tube or tissue box opening.

Step 3 (The Scatter): Scatter 3-4 tubes across a rug or mat so they roll freely when touched.

Step 4 (The Fix): Watch your dog pin the rolling tube with their paw or nose to pull the wrapped center out.

Quick Reference Matrix

Game Name	Prep Time	Primary Skill	Best Used For
Egg Carton Trap-Door	45 Seconds	Crevice Extraction	Methodical nose work & precision
Shoe Organizer Maze	1.5 Minutes	Vertical Foraging	Active sniffing without high jumps
Tissue Box Tunnel Roll	1 Minute	Paw & Nose Pinning	Interactive rolling puzzle fun

WANT SOME TRAINING GUIDANCE?

DM for custom training programs!