

AGILITY VITO'S THINKING GAME



DOGS THAT

Susan Garrett's By **DOG**
SHAPED **PODCAST**

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About Your eBook

Thank you for joining us!

I recognize that today, in particular, there are more and more trainers to choose from while on your dog training adventure. Your dog and I both thank you for choosing to invest your time with DogsThat.

We've got a sneak peek from one of our epic Agility Nation workshops to show just one of the ways we use Vito's Thinking Game for agility. The game is such a revolutionary way to give our dogs autonomy, and there are complex skills for agility that I teach using Vito's Thinking Game as the base layer.

Weaves, Jump Skills, Verbal Cues, Lead Legs, Contacts, Fitness – you name it, and there's a way Vito's Game can come into play to grow amazing skills for all agility dogs to empower them with confidence and clarity.

You may choose to make notes directly in this document with a program such as Adobe Reader or any PDF app of your choice that suits your device. If printing the eBook, you may want to choose black and white, and print it in sections that leave out the title pages in order to save ink.

Alternatively, you can do what I've done and send the eBook to a copy print store to have it both printed and bound for your use.

Here's to setting our dogs and ourselves up for success!



Susan Garrett

www.DogsThat.com

This sentence is meant for Print Professionals:

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Building Up a Verbal Cue – Diggy Diggy

Most people use verbal cues in their handling systems, but not everyone is adding them with clarity for the dog. Susan demonstrates how she creates clarity for her dogs by teaching and growing the cue “Diggy Diggy” (180-270° turn jump cue) from scratch, so you can use this model to train any cue with your dog.

If you are playing with a youngster, evaluate the strength and capabilities of your puppy to decide whether to progress with the different stages of the game or wait until they are physically and mentally ready, and then progress at a pace that brings confidence to your dog.

Stage 1 - Vito Game with Two Cones

Dogs of all ages can play, and this is a great game to start with your puppy, but don't let them associate one scenario with one particular cue. We want them to be able to listen and differentiate many different cues with the same set up.

- Start by brushing up your Vito's Thinking Game with your dog.
- Set up two cones close together with two targets or food bowls, and keep playing the game. Remember not to say anything, just give permission for your dog to get the cookie when you drop it onto the target.
- Gradually move your targets and yourself further away from the cones, and eventually remove the targets.
- Keep your sessions short and end with a game of tug! Remember to film and record keep your sessions.



Stage 2 - Moving the Cones Apart

- Warm up with a repetition of the previous stage and then move the cones apart a little to progress.
- Gradually move the cones further apart. Now your dog will have to choose, do they go between the cones or around them? Reinforce the good choice of going around!
- Move the cones further away so your dog does come between them and the reinforcer does not appear. If you notice your dog makes fewer mistakes on one side, repeat the one they're better at so you can reinforce a little more, and try the other side again. Go back to having the cones closer if you need to and eventually move them apart, up to at least three of your strides.



Reinforce your dog for going around the cones, rather than between.

The Full Workshop with Stages 3, 4, 5 & 6 for Building Up a Verbal Cue is in Handling360 and Agility Nation



handling360



AGILITYNATION

BUILDING UP A VERBAL CUE ~ SNEAK PEEK!

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Vito's Game Notes

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About Susan

A world-leading educator of dog trainers, Susan is also one of the most successful agility competitors of the last three decades, winning multiple Gold Medals at National or World Championship events over the past 30 years. Susan was one of the very first dog trainers to share knowledge online when she opened her "Clicker Dogs" website many years ago.

Susan has supported hundreds of thousands of people with enjoying a great relationship with their dogs through her workshops and keynote speaking around the world, award winning books, DVDs, magazine articles, interviews, blog posts, podcasts, free dog training and dog agility video series, and online dog training programs.



A natural teacher and an entertaining speaker, Susan is world renowned for her dog training knowledge and practical application of that knowledge. Her understanding of how to apply science-based learning principles to both competitive and family pet dog training has been pivotal in changing how dogs are trained.

Susan is now helping many thousands of dog owners in over 180 countries have the best relationship possible with their dogs. The real joy for her comes from bringing confidence to dogs and their owner through playful interactions and relationship building games that are grounded firmly in the science of how animals learn.



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EXCELLENCE IN DOG TRAINING



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182 COUNTRIES.



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AND COMMUNITY



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RECOGNIZED EXPERT
EDUCATORS FOR
OVER 25 YEARS



OVER A DECADE OF
EXPERIENCE
TEACHING DOG
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