



# Building Drive in Dogs

By Nick White,  
Dog Obedience  
Instructor

One of the most important steps to raising a confident dog is to **play tug with your dog**.

People do not realize how important this step is in confidence building. It does not help that there is so much misinformation out there on this subject. Most people truly do not know what to think. In order to get our protection dog any tug-driven, meaning they go crazy when they see the tug and then they will do anything for it the same needs to hold the tug's exposure to it. In most military branches and law enforcement agencies, our dogs were working for a ball. As soon as the handlers put that ball out, the dogs go crazy for it by spinning and barking and other actions.

So, many people would ask, "How do I get my dog that motivated for a ball?" First, it goes back to breeding and genetics. Some dogs, from day one, just have no interest in tugging or chasing a ball. There is why it is important to know what type of breeds you are getting, and when you are getting it from, to ensure that the puppy will be able to meet the expectations that you have for it.

In order to make your pup highly motivated for a ball, tug, or toy, it is essential that he does not have full access to it. That means that he should have only limited access to that specific toy. If the dog wants to the ball or tug at throughout the day, he will never be highly motivated for it. Again, why is dogs in the home is for you. If you had unlimited access to your dog, you wouldn't be any motivated to go to work, because there is no incentive. The same principles apply with your puppy—if he has constant access to a toy, there is no incentive for him to "work" for it. A dog will never be too motivated for something he always has and the people. The ball or tug becomes a new treat if they get it only at limited times and on special occasions. If you fed your dog but dogs every day, there needs per day, for one month, they would no longer be considered a treat to him if it is now food. So think about the ball or tug the same way—limited accessibility, and offer it only when they do something deserving of that treat.

Generally, we will give dogs the tug or play tug with them only when they are doing something good. When we are training with them, we will do some