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Polly Poodle

A dog theme matching game for 2 - 4 budding dog trainers in the 5 - 99 age range.

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In the area of the park where people come to exercise their dogs, the situation has gotten out of control. The owners are asking for help in finding their lost animals. Conveniently, they have photos of their beloved pets to show the other park users, including you. Even though they have pictures it is complicated because some dogs look confusingly similar!

The aim of the game is to find as many dogs as possible by matching the front and rear views.

Game contents

25 cards with dog portraits, 25 cards showing canine hind quarters, 4 wooden bones.





1 set of instructions

Game preparation

Before the game begins, sort the cards into views from the front and views from the rear. The faces of the cards show 25 different dogs.



Dog portraits: All 25 cards with a paw print on the reverse are shuffled and stacked face down. These are the photos the owners gave to help identify their lost dogs.

Canine hind quarters: The other cards show the same dogs, but only from behind. Shuffle the cards and place them with the reverse (i.e. the hind quarters) showing in a five-by-five grid pattern in the middle of the table.

In the general mêlée, you only get to see the dogs from behind.



Now each player takes a wooden bone. The remaining bones are returned to the box.

How to play

The player who can bark the loudest goes first and turns over the topmost card from the pile of dog portrait cards (cards with face front view). Place the card down face up on the table so that it is clearly visible to all. The card shows one of the dogs from the front view.

Now the fun begins:

Everyone looks for the hind quarters that match the dog in the photo. This isn't so easy as some dogs look confusingly similar! Pay special attention to the ears, the color and the tail, and you will spot the differences.

Example: dog portrait









B) wrong



C) correct



Take some time at the start of the game to familiarize yourself with the individual cards.

Take a close look at the dogs and study the differences.

If you think you have identified the matching hind quarters, place your bone on that card. When several players all want to put their bone on the same card, speed of reaction comes into play. The first bone placed on a card stays there. The others then decide whether to put their bone on a different card or to retain it.



The players now discover which of them has correctly matched up the front and rear views. All the cards on which a bone has been placed are turned over and compared with the photo.



Is your bone on the right dog?

Yes. You seem to have a nose for this! As your reward, take the dog portrait card and place it in front of you.

Has no player placed a bone on the right dog?

Never mind. The dog portrait is returned to the bottom of the pile; the hind viewcards stay where they are in the grid pattern.

The cards in the grid are left in place.

All cards that were revealed are turned back over again so only the hinds of the dogs appear.

Now it's the turn of the next player.

End of the game

The game ends when all the cards in the deck have been used up. The players now count how many dog portraits they have collected. The player who has collected the most cards – and has therefore reunited the most dogs with their owners – wins the game.

TIP: If the children are still too young to count properly, they can lay out their cards in rows. The player with the longest row wins.