

## HOW DO DOGS SEE COLOUR?



As with human eyes, dog's eyes consist of cones and rods. However there is an emphasis on their rods, while humans have an emphasis on cones.

This emphasis on rods allows dogs to see in dark and dim light four times better than us. The emphasis on human cones allows us to view a spectrum of colours in bright light.

We have three cones, while dogs have only two and contrary to popular belief, dogs are not colour blind; but are able to determine various shades of violet, indigo, blue and possibly red, therefore dogs are more 'colour limited' than 'colour blind'.

Dogs have difficulty distinguishing colours between green, yellow, orange and red. So whilst that bright yellow dummy looks obvious to you, for your dog it's the same colour as the green grass it's lying on, or the same colour as the green dummy in your game bag; making it no less harder or easier to find than the traditional green canvas dummy.

It is thought that whilst dogs have difficulty in distinguishing between green, yellow, orange and red, they can more clearly distinguish between the colours in the indigo/blue spectrum very well. Therefore there is a distinct difference for a dog between a dummy that is green, orange, red etc. and one that is blue or indigo even. Added to the fact that a blue dummy will also contrast well against green grass for a dog, it makes sense if you wish to build confidence in your dog to use blue dummies. Also blue dummies are easier for us to spot in grass too, should we be unlucky enough to forget where we had placed them.

Similarly if you wish to make a retrieve a bit harder, a green coloured dummy does the trick just as well as a yellow, orange or red dummy.