

Evaluation Item: Handling ▾

Evaluator Level: Green ▾

Introducing “Touch”

“Touch” gives me a great way to reposition a dog, whether it’s from one side of my body to the other, or to turn around in a bathtub. “Touch” is also a great way to get a dog’s attention on me instead of on something or someone else. When I’m out for a walk and a dog sees something they don’t like, (or they really really like,) I can ask my dog to quickly “touch” a few times to get their attention on me and move them away.

1. Say “Touch,” then stick your hand out near the dog’s face. (About 1 foot away.)
2. When the dog investigates what is so exciting about your hand and touches your hand with their nose, give them a reward!
3. As you continue to practice this, you can move your hand farther away and at various heights from the dog’s face.

Adopter Highlight

This cue is a great way to introduce training to an adopter, since it requires nothing more than a target and some rewards. This cue is great for giving adopters a sense of control of the dog. Discussing moving the dog using “touch” instead of physically manipulating the dog is great for dogs with body handling sensitivities or other space sensitivities.

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