

TOUCH

LEVEL ONE

WHY AM I TRAINING THIS?

This behavior is very helpful in many situations. It provides you with a non-physical way to move your dog in situations where they are uncomfortable, by asking them to move using a command they are familiar and comfortable with. This is also a great steppingstone behavior for tricks, such as leg weaves, finish and real life behaviors like "Behind".

GET READY:

- ✓ Some yummy treats
- ✓ Choose a cue for this behavior, such as "Touch", "Hand", "Here", etc. (A verbal cue is optional. You can also train them to touch your hand upon the presentation of your hand in a specific way)
- ✓ Find a space the dog is familiar and comfortable with that is as free of distractions as possible (Backyard, living room, kitchen, dining room, bedroom, garage, etc.).

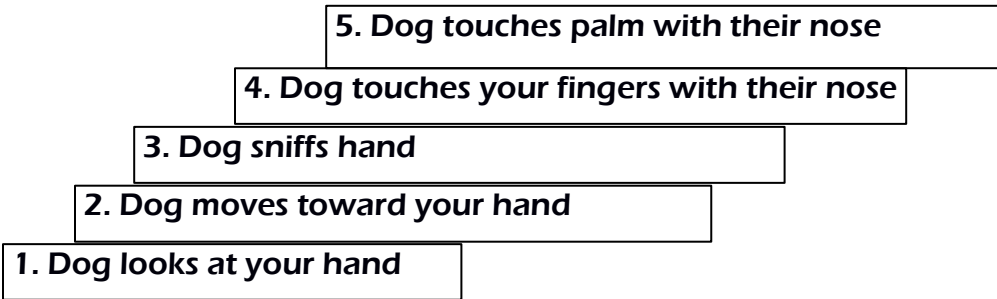
GET SET:

- ✓ Have your tasty treats ready and easy to access (ie. treat bag, pocket, etc.)
- ✓ Have your dog positioned in front of you.

GO:

- ✓ The goal of this level is to teach your dog to touch your hand with their nose. To do this, you will need to decide which hand you want to use.
- ✓ Once you have decided, present your chosen hand with your palm towards the dog and fingers pointing down (remove your hand after each attempt and present again for the next attempt)
 - If they touch your palm right away, mark and reward
 - If they don't touch your hand right away use the following staircase to break the process down into smaller steps, marking and rewarding for each level (remove your hand after each attempt and present again for the next attempt):





- ✓ Repeat this 5-10 times.
- ✓ Once your dog is reliably touching your hand, begin adding your chosen cue. (Note: If you don't want to add a verbal cue, continue to simply present your hand with your palm out and fingers down. This hand position will be your cue.)
 - To do this, say your cue as your dog moves to touch your hand:
 - Ex: Present hand - Dog moves toward your hand - "Touch!"
– nose touches palm – mark and treat
- ✓ Repeat this 10-15 times.
- ✓ Once your dog is reliably responding to your cue you may move onto Level 2.

