

VET HANDLING

LEVEL FIVE

GET READY:

- ✓ Yummy treats
- ✓ This is best practiced when your dog is calm and relaxed in an environment that is relatively free of distractions (living room, bedroom, etc.)

GET SET:

- ✓ Have your treats easily accessible (pocket, pouch, etc.)
- ✓ Dog should be relaxed and at ease

GO:

- ✓ This is a great exercise to do in an informal manner, while you are sitting with your dog in the evening, when they are relaxed and laying down (Not Asleep Though!).
 - Approach your dog, making sure they know that you are there, and pet them in the usual way
 - If they are laying down:
 - As you are petting them, begin to move your arms so that one arm is laying across their shoulder, with your hand on their front leg, and your other arm is laying across their hips, with your hand on their back leg. Mark and reward.
 - Gently begin to apply a small amount of pressure. Mark and reward your dog.
 - If your dog tries to get up apply enough pressure so that they can't stand up and the second your dog stops trying to get up or looks at you instead of your hands, mark, release and reward. **IN THAT ORDER!**
 - If your dog is standing:
 - As you are petting them, gently move so that your torso is parallel to theirs. Gently move one arm so that it is in front of their front legs, wrapped upwards around your dog's chest (**NOT THEIR NECK!**), so that your hand is resting between their shoulder blades. Move your other arm so that it is in front of their back legs, wrapped upwards around their torso, so that your hand is resting on their lower back. Mark and reward.
 - Gently begin to apply a small amount of pressure. Mark and reward.



- If your dog tries to move away, apply enough pressure so that they can't, and the second your dog stops trying to get away or looks at you instead of your hands, mark, release and reward. **IN THAT ORDER!**
- ✓ If at any point your dog growls, moves away or stiffens up stop and give them their space. **DO NOT CORRECT YOUR DOG FOR GROWLING!!** This is their way of telling you that they don't like what's happening and want you to stop. Continuing despite these warnings, could lead to a more dangerous display from your dog, such as a snap or bite.
- ✓ If you have a new rescue dog, **BE VERY CAUTIOUS**, if attempting this. I would encourage you to not try this without professional help/evaluation.

