

TOUCH

Dog learns to touch their nose to person's open hand/palm.



Why We Train It:

- Fun and easy game
- To move dog around: off of couch, onto scale at vet's office
- Management: keep dog's attention away until stimulus disappears
- Alternative behavior after dog has seen stimulus
- Emergency recall (coming when called)
- Helps hand-shy dogs learn that hands are good
- Lure for new behaviors (lots of tricks)

Follow the plan and use **Push/Drop/Stick** rules for training.

Practice each step 5 times.

PUSH to the next step in the plan if the dog gets 4 or 5 out of 5 right.

DROP to the previous step in the plan if the dog gets less than 3 out of the 5 right.

STICK to the current step in the plan if the dog gets 3 out of the 5 right.

This is how to measure whether the dog is learning or just guessing. It's also how we measure whether the current step is too hard, too easy or just right.

TOUCH PLAN

Do each step 5 times and follow Push/Drop/Stick Rules



STEP	What You Do	What Dog Does	Notes/Splits
1	Present palm 1 inch in front of dog's nose with food tucked under thumb in palm	Sniffs/investigates hand. Reward (release thumb to deliver food) when nose even slightly touches hand.	Use stinky treat to encourage investigation.
2	Same but present 6" away	Same	
3	Present palm 6" from dog without food in hand	Reward with food from other hand when dog's nose touches	
4	Present palm 12" from dog without food in hand	Same	
5	Add verbal cue "Touch" then present hand, from 12" away	Same	
6	Add verbal cue "Touch" then present hand, from 1-2 feet away.	Same	
7	Add verbal cue "Touch" then present hand, increasing to maximum distance or onto/off of furniture.	Same	
8	2 people set up on opposite sides of room/space. Doggy Ping Pong.	Dog will go back and forth between two people across the room	

After step 8 begin to practice in gradually more difficult/distracting environments like a yard, on a walk or at the park. You may need to drop down to closer distances when you change the environment.