

Touch Cue:



Steps:

1. Stock your pocket/pouch with the dog's favorite treats. Go to a quiet area the dog is comfortable in. Make sure there are no distractions.
2. Hold your flat hand, palm out, an inch or two away from your dog's nose (see picture below).
3. When your dog sniffs your hand, say "yes" at the exact moment their nose makes contact, **reward directly in front of your open palm**, and praise. Repeat 10 times.



Verbal cue:

5. Once your dog is bumping your hand reliably 90% of the time you offer your hand, move on to adding the verbal cue "Touch."
6. Right before you present your palm to your dog say "Touch", Once your dog touches your hand say "Yes" and reward.

Use for:

- Confidence and optimism
- Engagement
- Disengagement
- Focus
- Vet exams.
- Value for being close to you!

Don't use for:

Getting close to things they dislike ... just yet. "Touch" needs to be seen as a positive game. Then you can work your dog's confidence around fearful things, on your dog time.



Hand signal: Open palm

Verbal Cue: "Touch"

Distance:

7. Once your dog is reliably bumping your hand when you say touch, start moving your hand further from your dog. Start by having your hand a few inches further to a few feet and eventually build up to moving your hand up and down.
8. Once your dog can reliably touch your hand at a distance start adding some low-level distractions like asking your dog to "touch" in your yard or on walks.



You can also teach them to touch a target stick.