



Hand Target

A hand target can be used in a variety of ways. Make it into a game to keep your dog's attention, use it to move him out of the way, or add it to the end of a recall to keep your dog close to you. It can also be used to teach many tricks or to help a shy dog greet people more confidently.

To Teach It

1. Hold your hand out about 2 inches away from your dog's nose.
2. When your dog looks at or sniffs your hand, mark ("yes") and reward with a treat from your other hand.
3. After a few repetitions, mark and reward only when your dog actually touches your hand with his nose.
4. Add the cue by saying "touch" as you hold out your hand. Be sure to mark and reward when your dog touches your hand.
5. When your dog is reliably touching your hand on cue, hold your hand farther away from your dog so he has to move around to touch it. Try holding your hand higher or lower.

Troubleshooting

- If your dog ignores your hand, put it behind your back for a few seconds and then present it again.
- If your dog stares at your other hand because he knows you have a treat, try holding your treat hand behind your back.
- You can also switch hands each time to keep your dog guessing about where the treat is.