

Go Say Hi!



This game gives dogs a polite way of saying hi and can be helpful for bouncy kids who want to jump and nervous dogs who are growing their confidence around people.

The first step to this is having a solid 'nose touch' this is where the dog touches your hand with their nose to your hand. If you need help with this, ask your trainer.

You'll want to teach this with known people first so grab a friend or family member and label yourselves person 1 and person 2. Person 1 should be the person the dog is most comfortable with if working with a worried dog or the least exciting if working with a giddy kid.

Step 1: Stand next to each other and have person 2 hold out their hand as if asking for a touch.

Step 2: Person 1 is going to ask the dog for a 'touch' and point towards person 2's hand. When the dog touches the hand with their nose person 1 will mark 'good' and reward the dog away from person 2.

Repeat as many times as needed.

Step 3: When step 2 is going well, start to fade the pointing gesture, we want the dog to touch person 2's hand on a verbal cue.

Repeat until fluid!

Step 4: Now we're going to increase the distance between person 1 and person 2. Take one step away each time. If the dog starts to struggle take a step closer and try again.

Step 5: The game will work without the next two steps but if you want to be fancy you can now do a 'cue transfer'. Only do this when you're willing to bet £50 that your dog will touch person 2's hand every time.

- Have person 2 hold out their hand. Person 1 will say 'go say hi' immediately followed by 'touch'. Mark and reward when the dog gets it.
- Do this around 10 times.

Step 6: Person 1 will give the 'go say hi' cue, while person 2's hand is presented to the dog. Count to 2, if the dog has not gone to touch the hand cue 'touch' and practise step 5 a few more times.

If they do go to touch the hand try a few more times to really solidify the new cue.

Top Tip: Make sure person 2 is not sticking their hand in the dog's face. The hand needs to be held out so it's clearly visible to the dog but they need to come to the hand rather than have the hand come to them.