

Touch



This might seem like a simple trick but don't be fooled! This is a handy recall alternative and the foundation to some incredibly impressive 'send away' skills, calm greetings, and co-operative care skills.

Touch is a simple skill where we ask our dogs to touch either the back or palm of our hand with their nose. If your dog knows paw it's best to use the back of your hand so as not to confuse them.

To play:

1. Have some treats in your treat pouch ready but make sure there are no treats in either of your hands
2. Stand with your dog in front of you. If their focus is wandering away from you it might be handy to ask them to sit, but this isn't always necessary.
3. Hide your hand behind your back then slowly bring your hand out towards your dog
4. Pause when your hand is a few inches from your dogs nose
5. Use your marker as soon as your dogs nose touches your hand then deliver a treat to thier mouth with the other hand

6. Repeat, repeat, repeat!

If your dog looks at you like you're barmy, just take your hand away again and bring it back towards them. Usually the movement catches their eye and prompts some action from them.

7. When you're willing to bet £20 they'll touch their nose to your hand every time you present it to them you can start to add your verbal cue.

8. Bring your hand out and cue "touch" just before they move towards your hand.

To make it harder:

1. Move your hand to different positions so your dog has to move to touch it
2. Ask your dog for a touch when they're further away from you so they have to walk towards you to touch