

Teaching “Target” or “Touch”

With this command you are teaching your dog to touch his or her nose to the palm of your hand. Once he knows the command you can place your hand wherever you want him to go and give the command “touch” or “target”

So to start you want lots of yummy treats that you can hold in your hand or a treat pouch.

1. Rub the treats in your target hand to provide a scent.
2. Sit in front of your pet. Hold your hand out about 8-12 inches away, fingers flat, with the palm facing your dog and say “touch” (or “target)
3. Hold your hand still and the instant your dog’s nose touches it (initially because he wants to lick it) say “yes” in an excited voice and give him a treat using your OPPOSITE hand.
4. Repeat this multiple times until he gets the idea. As he’s learning, just give the command once and then wait patiently until he figures it out.
5. Once he starts to catch on, then try moving your hand to different areas. Then try targeting the other hand so that eventually he will target either one.
6. Once the command is learned you will not need to entice him by rubbing the scent on your hand any more.
7. To “jazz” things up you can position your hand so that he has to walk through your legs, or over a plank or under a table, etc.

