



Teaching your dog to touch your hand with his nose is a wonderful skill. It gives your dog a replacement behaviour to do instead of barking, staring or lunging when he feels nervous or frustrated. It also gives your dog another way to interact with you for reinforcement. Many dogs think it's a fun game when they get good at it!

## How To Teach It:

- Rub some smelly treats on the palm of your hand.
- Hold your clicker in your other hand.
- Offer your hand to your dog, open palm, held horizontally, and below their eye level.



- When they sniff your hand to investigate and touch your palm with their nose, click and then grab a treat from your pouch and give it to your dog with the same hand you offered them to touch.
- Repeat several times, until your dog is reliably pushing their nose into your hand.
- When they are always touching your hand when offered, add the verbal cue "touch".
- Practice by holding your hand, open palm, in various positions.
- If your dog doesn't respond to your offered hand, remove your hand, change position, and try again.
- Avoid pushing your hand into your dog's face or presenting it too closely as some dogs may find that unpleasant.

*Practice this skill at home, and then try it out on walks, in the car, and then around distractions.*