



# WOMEN'S ANIMAL CENTER

America's First Animal Shelter™

## Touch Training Plan

**Step 1:** Place a small piece of food between the palm of your hand and your thumb. Hold your hand at your side with the dog nearby.

Once the dog's nose has made contact with your palm, release the treat to him. Do this at least 5 times in a row in rapid succession.

**Step 2:** Once the dog is reliably targeting your palm with his nose, put an empty palm out toward the dog while the dog is nearby.

When the dog is targeting your palm with his nose, reward him with food from your other hand.

**Step 3:** Once the dog is reliable with that, add the verbal cue! Say "touch!" and hold out your palm. Wait for the dog to target your palm and then reward with the treat. You can begin adding distance by moving your palm further away from the dog.

When you add the verbal cue, wait the dog out. Try not to change the cue, wiggle your fingers, or make any movement. Kissy sounds are okay at first.

### Notes:

- Unlike some other behaviors, Touch always includes the hand signal!
- Touch can be used for recall for some dogs if they get really good at it!