

SNIFFING OUT SOLUTIONS

HANDLING GAMES

PREPPING FOR CARE



MASSAGE

Gentle massage is the best way to help our dogs be comfortable being handled. It is also a calming activity you can do together.

Gently and slowly touch their entire body, take extra care to include their paws, ears, tail, muzzle, lips, and gums.

It's essential to know your dog's body as they mature and age so you are aware of any abnormalities.



PERCH



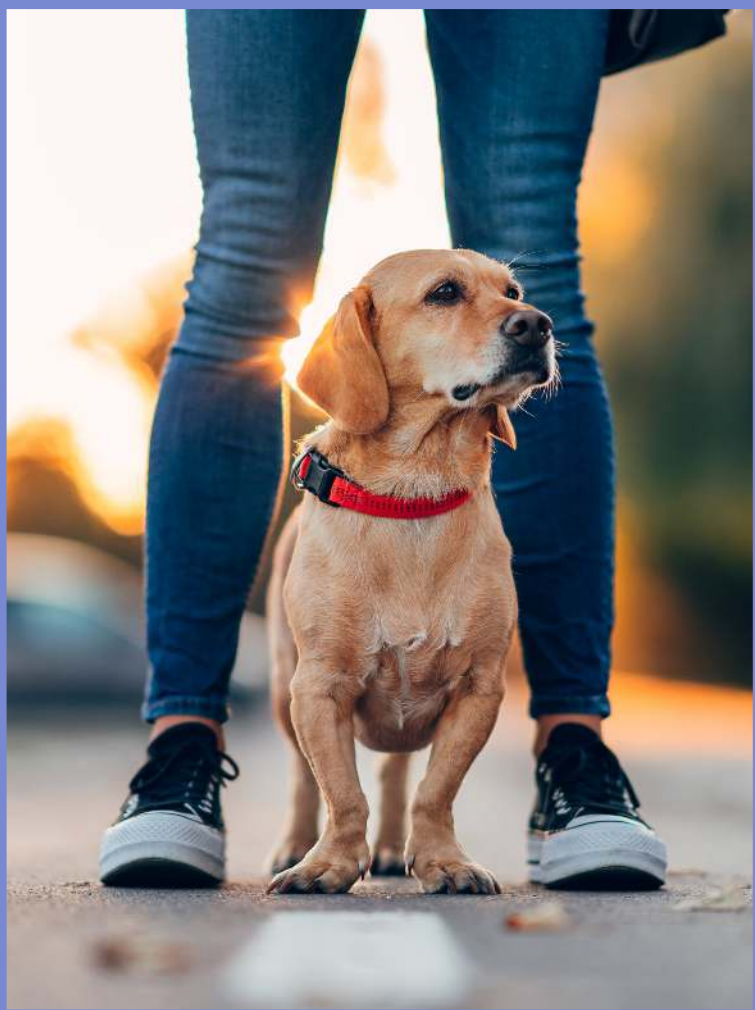
Perch is when your dog places two paws on an item

Select an item to use, such as a book, wooden box, or container

As your dog looks at, moves towards, or touches the item, mark and reward

Over time increase requirements until your dog is placing both paws on the item

MIDDLE



With kibble in both hands lure your dog around one of your legs

As your dog reaches behind you switch the hand you are luring with

Lead them through your legs and once in position generously feed

Toss a piece of food out to reset and repeat to build value

PAW TARGET



Hide a piece of food in your hand and hold it out, low to the ground, to your dog

As your dog lifts their paw, even slightly, mark and reward

Over time increase your requirements until your dog places their paw on your hand

Begin offering your hand palm up instead of closed

CHIN TARGET



Hold your hand out just below your dog's chin

Begin feeding them, which will cause them to lower their chin to your hand

Reset and repeat, over time they will begin to place their chin in your hand before feeding

Keep your deliveries slow and calm, this should be a relaxing behavior

PLAY DEAD



With your dog laying down slowly lure a piece of food over their shoulder

As your dog shifts their weight, even slightly, mark and reward

This behavior can be difficult for some dogs, it's important to introduce it slowly

Resist physically moving your dog, as it tends to make them more uncomfortable

MUZZLE TRAINING



Muzzles sometimes have to be used in an emergency or while training

Start with a non-muzzle object, such as a plastic container

Hold the item out, as your dog looks at it, moves towards it, or interacts with it, mark and reward

Once your dog is comfortable with one item, generalize with others, including a muzzle

SCRUFFS



This game preps our dogs for shots at the vet

Gently pick up their scruff, release, and feed

Repeat multiple times but keep your sessions short

You can also use a pen as a substitute for a needle



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