



TARGET / TOUCH

Target is a simple behavior which allows us to lead into more advanced behaviors and tricks. We use target sticks in class, but it is just as simple to get your dog to target using your own hand.

- Keeping the target stick's handle short, lower it to nose level
- When your dog sniffs the target, touching it with their nose, click and treat

That's it! Make sure that the treats are not in the hand you are using to hold the target stick. If you find your dog looking towards your treat hand instead of the target, hold that hand behind your back. **Your dog must touch the target as you click!** If you click too late while they're pulling away, then your dog learns to pull away from the target. If you click when they are close but not touching, that is what your dog will learn. If your dog shows no interest in the target, rub some treats on it, to make it smell enticing to your pup.

After a week of using the target without a command, you may begin to add the word "Target" or "Touch" to the behavior.