



Woofpack Dog Training
www.woofpacknc.com

Touch & Handling

Working with your puppy on touch and handling can lower their stress at the vet, make life easier at the groomer, and help you keep your puppy happier and healthier! Being touched and held is not natural to most dogs. They need help from you to get used to being held, especially by strangers. Try to be patient and move slowly using the steps below!

Step 1: Find your pup's favorite food.

Try using kibble, a favorite treat, or a toy as a reward!

Step 2: Leash your pet to keep them close.

Go get your puppy, leash them, and bring them to a practice area.

TIP: Switch practice areas frequently so your puppy doesn't learn just one room is used for handling activities.

Step 3: Touch and Treat.

Start with one area of the body at a time. Gently touch your pup, tell them, "Good!" and immediately reward them. Repeat.

Step 4: Increase time and difficulty.

Once your puppy is accepting of a quick, gentle touch, begin adding time (in 5-10 second increments) before ending the touch. Make sure to reward your pup when they do a great job!

Practice 5-10 repetitions for each area listed below twice daily.

Areas to Work on Touch and Handling:

- Lift an ear and look inside the ear canal.
- Hold the head still to look at the eyes.
- Lift lips to look at the teeth.
- Touch each paw.
- Hold each paw.
- Inspect the fur and skin.
- Lift the tail.

*If your puppy is showing any signs of aggression, stop working at home for now and consult your trainer to work on touching/handling.