

# Cooperative Care Handling

- Why is cooperative care handling practice important?
- What is handling?
- Games to build comfort and consent
- Touch the Pup Game
- Touch with stuff
- Stress signs to watch for

# Why does it matter?

## Story Time



# What is Handling

- Handling is anytime you need to put your hands on the dog when not giving affection.
- Putting on equipment- collar, jacket, halti, leash
- Picking something out of their fur
- Wiping paws
- Any grooming care
- Any vet care

# Conditional Emotional Response (CER)

- Nail Trims, Vet visits, Equipment
  - Sight of the tools
  - Sound of the tools
  - 3x3 Approach

# Building Comfort and Consent Games

- Touch the Pup
- Touch With Stuff
- Touch/Hand Targeting

# Game 1- Touch The Pup

Goal: For pup to let you touch them in different spots without watching what you are doing.

1. Get down on their level and show puppy your empty hand so they see there is no food in it. Let them sniff it to see there is nothing there if they want to check it out. Praise them if they do, but they don't get a treat for this, since we don't want them to learn to target your hand.
2. Slowly reach towards their shoulder **as if** you are going to touch them. Mark ("Yes!") **before** making contact and reward with kibble. Repeat.

# Game 1- Touch the Pup (Part 2)

4. If they keep following your hand, watching it or squirming, remove your hand and try again. Moving your hand slower or stopping further away from them before marking and rewarding.
5. When they aren't turning to watch or follow your hand, reach closer to their shoulder, as they improve each rep. Eventually you can reach to make contact with their shoulder.
6. As they get better at this, explore touching other spots like their other shoulder, spine, hips, knees, elbows and toes!

# Game Rules

- If pup follows your reaching hand with their head or mouth STOP and pull back to start again. They get no treat but they can make you stop.
- If you reach towards them and they continue looking forward or at you, YES and treat!
- Pup is always allowed to walk away to end the game. If the game ends, food goes away.
- At any point during this training, if you see pup have an increase in stress signals, stop and go back to the last stage they were consistently successful. Some dogs move quickly through this stage, some need several training sessions before they are ready to progress. Remember, they don't know what you are doing yet.

# Videos



# Videos



# Game 2- Touch With Stuff

1. Pick an everyday object, but not something that puppy will already have an association of being touched with. Let them sniff it to see what you have if they show signs of wanting to check it out. Praise them if they do, but they don't need a treat for this.
2. Slowly reach towards their shoulder as if you are going to pet them with it, touch their shoulder with it, pull away, Mark ("Yes!") and reward with food. Repeat.
3. If puppy does consistently well with this, try again petting them with it for one short (about 1 inch) stroke before pulling away, mark and reward.

# Game 2- Touch With Advanced Stuff

4. If you want to make the game harder, you can try out using different sized and type of objects.
5. Try touching them in different areas like their spine, elbows, tail, knees etc with the different objects.
6. If they are doing really well, you can even try more familiar tools you'll need to be able to use on them (ex nail trimmers, brush, scissors (poodles) etc)
7. Ask someone else to play the game with your pup since most of the time the person handling them won't be someone they are very familiar with.
8. Try this game out in different places! Can they do it at the office? A friend's house? The park?

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# What Does Stress Look Like?

- Exaggerated yawning
- Sudden change in appetite
- Taking treats roughly
- Disengaging from you or walking away
- Ears back
- Tail tucked
- Moving in slow motion/ going very still
- Shaking off (as if wet)
- "Whale eye" being able to see the whites of their eye (they are looking at you out of the corners of their eyes, too nervous to move or look straight at you)
- Flattening to the floor
- Pulling/ leaning away
- Flinching when touched
- Licking their lips
- Lying down, showing their belly (in addition to tense body and other stress signals)
- Scratching (seemingly "suddenly itchy" when in the middle of something)
- Getting suddenly "extra silly" and seeming inability to focus
- Growling
- Snapping
- Biting

# When you see 2 or more stress signals

## Stop And Reassess

- What is stressing them out? Is it something I am doing, or something in the environment?
- Am I progressing too fast for my pup?
- Has today been a stressful day for my pup?
- Can my pup easily walk away from me?
- Where was my pup last consistently successful?

## Take A Break!

- If you have asked yourself the Stop and Reassess questions and your pup is still showing 2 or more stress signs, it may be time for a break!
- Toss a kibble away from you for them to go get. See how quickly they come back.
- If they take their time or get distracted on their way back, it may be time for a break.
- If they come straight back, ready for more, great! They probably don't need a break.
- If the training session stops, the treats stop.

# *Who Has Questions?*

