

ELEMENT DOG TRAINING

Touch

- Definition
 - The targeting of the dog's nose to your hand or fingers
- Purpose
 - Is a locating tool and can be a recall command
- Process
 - Rub an attractive scent on your fingers and place your extended hand 1-2" from your dog's nose.
 - When your dog goes to sniff and makes contact with your hand Mark it and then reward the behavior from the opposite hand. Repeat until dog enthusiastically "bops" your hand.
 - Repeat the previous step without scenting your hand.
 - Add in the verbal cue "Touch" before extending your hand.
 - Slowly add in distance that the dog needs to move to perform the touch.
 - 1-2", 3-4", 8-10", 1-2', 3-4', 6-8', etc.
- Increase the difficulty by practicing in different environments
- [YouTube video of Touch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xifwx7hRGD8)
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- Common mistakes when teaching touch:
 - Not starting with a high enough value reward. The initial build for this behavior should be exciting and a high value reward creates that excitement
 - Increasing the distance or difficulty too quickly. Moving too fast can let the dog practice not responding to the cue.

