ROLLOVER / PLAY DEAD

ROLL OVER

This behavior starts in a Down. As many other behaviors, Rollover is Lure-Reward trained, which means it's 1234:

- 1) Say "Rollover"
- 2) Lure the dog to rollover while making the hand signal with the other hand.
- 3) The dog completes the motion
- 4) Praise and reward.



How do we lure this? Kneel down in front of the dog while they're in the down. Hold the treat to the side of their head opposite the direction you want them to roll. Move that treat from the nose toward the shoulder blade; this will get them to go on their side.

For some dogs, you'll have to stop here and progress farther over time. For those dogs that are going farther, keep moving the treat from the shoulder blade to the backbone. This will lure them onto their back and all the way over. Reward the instant they land on the other side.

PRO TIPS:

- If your dog just squirms instead of rolling, strive to get that neck arched as if the nose was reaching for the shoulder. Keep it tight. This puts a little pressure on the joints and the only way to relieve it is to start rolling.
- If your dog goes to the side but doesn't keep rolling, gently guide the front legs the rest of the way and the body will follow. Praise, repeat, and phase out the nudge.
- Dogs have a side preference like we do. If you're just not getting it, try the other side!

PLAY DEAD

Play dead is really just a paused rollover. Teach the rollover as outlined above except say "Bang!" or "Play Dead," and your signal is your thumb and forefinger making a toy gun. Stop in the middle, give a belly scratch, reward and praise with "Good Bang!" or "Good play dead!"

Practice until they can do it with minimal prompting from you. Proof it just like you would Sit, Down, or Stand, and phase out the food rewards the same way (as outlined in the "Quantum Leaps" handout).

Good luck, and have fun!