



# K9EDGE DOG TRAINING

CREATING THE BOND NEVER BROKEN

*“Touch” can be transferred to surfaces, such as a sticky note, a bell on the door, or a target stick to help teach more complex behaviours*



*The same process can be used to teach paw targeting. Capture or lure a paw touch and reinforce.*

## HAND TARGETING (TOUCH)

### What is touch?

A cue to get your dog to touch his nose to your hand.

### Why teach it?

Because it’s a useful foundation for many more advanced behaviours and gives you a way to capture your dog’s attention and direct his movements. For example, coming toward you to touch your hand is a great start on recall and touching someone’s hand is a nice alternative to jumping on them.

### How to teach it.

Step 1. Cut up a large number of small treats. Use a clicker or your marker word.

Step 2. Present your hand a couple of inches away from your dog’s face. Click and treat for any interest he shows, whether an actual touch of his nose to your hand or just looking at your hand. After the first few times, click only for a full nose touch.

Click to mark perfect behaviour. Targeting is a great way to hone clicker skills for both you and your dog!

Step 3. Repeat this until your dog reliably touches your hand.

Step 4. Now add the verbal cue. Before presenting your hand, say, "Touch" and then put your hand down. (Be sure to pause for a second between the cue and reaching down.)

Step 5. When your dog responds reliably to the verbal cue, begin to increase the distance of your dog's head from your hand by a few inches.

Step 6. Keep increasing the distance little by little. Also move your hand to different positions, higher, lower, toward the side of your dog's head—and try the exercise in different rooms of the house.

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Canadian Association of Professional Pet Dog Trainers

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*K9EDGE offers private training for family dogs. Puppy prep, obedience, and problem solving, I can work with all breeds and all ages of dogs. Serving Edmonton and surrounding communities with a love for the species and a commitment to being one of Alberta's finest Pet Professionals.*