

Good Food Manners for Training



This is a very useful exercise that I learnt when I was first taught clicker training.

It is important that, when using food in training, your puppy has manners and learns not to jump up or snatch food from your hand. This is therefore an important first lesson in training.

When we hold a treat in our hand, we generally hold the treat between our thumb and index and middle fingers. This hand position is going to mean that the food is on offer, you can follow it, you can focus on it and you can work for it, but you cannot take it.

The second-hand position is an open flat palm. This hand position means that you can take it.

There are no cues or commands in this exercise, your puppy is just learning to be polite and understand what these hand positions mean.

TOOLS



What do I need?
Some tasty treats

Good Food Manners

STEP 1

Present the treat, held between the fingers and thumb to your puppy.

STEP 2

The second that your puppy stops trying to take the treat from your hand, you can open your palm flat under your puppy's chin and allow your puppy to take the treat.

STEP 3

Once your puppy will happily leave the treat, you can see if it will follow the hand and leave the treat politely. You can reward this by opening your hand and delivering the treat to your puppy.

HANDY HINTS!

Be careful what you reward, following the treat politely and chasing the treat are two very different behaviours. It is important that you reward polite following of your hand.

