

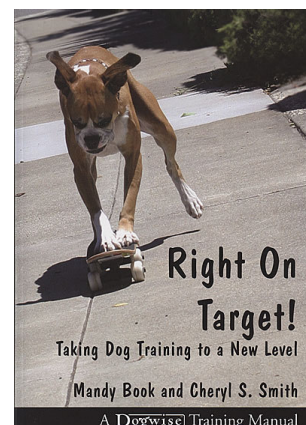
An excerpt from

## ***Right on Target***

### **Chapter 2 Taking Dog Training to a New Level**

By Mandy Book & Cheryl Smith, Dogwise Publishing. 800-776-2665,  
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### **Nose Touch**

Forgive the pun, but dogs are nosey. They naturally follow their noses to things that interest them. This makes it easy to teach a dog to touch a target with his nose. Nose touches are undoubtedly the most used and probably most useful of the various body touches—you can use your nose targets to work at a distance, practice a variety of dog sports, and teach some cool tricks.

While we cover three nose touch behaviors in this chapter, we recommend you choose to teach only one nose touch initially, and then introduce your dog to a foot and body touch from Chapters 3 and 4, before continuing practice with nose touches. Otherwise, it will be difficult to get your dog to touch with a different body part.

- **Touch Nose to Hand**

Teach the dog to bump his nose to the palm of your hand. This is an excellent first behavior to teach because you always have the target “handy.” Dogs new to target training and/or the use of a marker generally do well with this. It’s also a great first behavior for dogs more familiar with other types of training, such as lure/reward or collar corrections. Most dogs like to initiate contact with their humans, so bumping your hand comes easily to them.

### **Get Ready**

This behavior will help you work on your timing, and give you practice using both of your hands.

You’ll learn how to evaluate your progress, shape your criteria, and add a cue, the word or hand signal that tells the dog to do the behavior. You’ll also work on speed and variations in how targets are placed.

We suggest that you start with a hand touch because it’s easier for you not to have to fuss with any extra paraphernalia. However, if you’re already taught “shake” or “give me your paw” to your dog, it may conflict with the hand touch. You may need to use a separate target in your hand to get the nose touch in that case. See the instructions for targeting on a Contact Disk below if this applies to you.

To begin training, you’ll need treats and a timer of some sort. If you find it helpful to write things down (we encourage it!) you’ll find sample record sheets in the Resource section at the end of the book.

### **Suggested Cues**

“Touch,” “Nose,” or “Hand,” with your hand held out. Be sure that your verbal cue is very clear to the dog so he isn’t trying to do a hand touch any time he wants or whenever your hand happens to be hanging at your side. Once you’ve added the verbal cue, do not reward any hand touches without the cue word being given first.

## Go

1. Hold your hand out slightly in front of the dog and wait for the dog to lean or step toward it. Mark and treat.
2. Mark and treat when the dog touches your hand. Continue until the dog is reliably (7 out of 10 tries) bumping your hand when you hold it out.
3. Get the dog to touch both your right and left hands.
4. Get the dog to touch when your hand is held 3 inches lower than his nose.
5. Repeat with the opposite hand.
6. Get the dog to touch when your hand is held above his nose.
7. Repeat with the opposite hand.
8. Present the hand in different places relative to the dog.
9. Add your cue word.
10. Work in different locations to generalize the behavior.
11. Hold your hand oriented differently (horizontally, with palm up or palm down, for example).
12. Put your hand close to or on different objects at different heights.
13. Teach the dog to respond only when given the Touch cue with your hand held out.
14. Take it on the road (variety and continued practice).

If you run into any problems, see the more detailed training steps at the end of the section. Detailed training steps are included with all of the behaviors early in the book, so don't hesitate to refer to them if you need more help.

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