



2 Paws Up

1. For this game, you will need a pedestal ("target mark"): a block of wood, an upside down dog bowl, anything just big enough for two of your dog's paws and raised from the floor.
2. Shape your dog's interest in moving towards the target mark by marking "yes" when they look at it, move towards it, lower head to it, sniff at it, etc. Then reward them by placing a treat on the target. Shift your body away from the target and wait for your dog to interact with the target again. Keep repeating this step until your dog does not want to leave the target area.
3. Next, lure your dog over the target mark until they put their 2 front paws on the object. We are looking for our dogs to place their 2 front paws in the center of the target and remain in the stand. Feed in position several times and then release. Repeat.
4. We may have to accept baby steps for a dog that is hesitant to put their paws on the target: start rewarding for touching the side, putting one toe on the target, or one paw, and so on, until both paws are planted on the target.
5. This prop is handy for all kinds of things depending on where you place the target. Build it up like a magnet so your dog wants to gravitate towards it any time it is present.
6. Place it in front of you and practice tiny recalls. Place it at your side and work on your dog finding heel position. Work on duration for your stand.
7. Use it as a conversation starter to assess your dog's focus in a new or complex environment.

Find a suitable target at home and bring it with you to class. It should be something that is small and portable.