

# Teach Your Puppy to **LOVE** Being Handled

It's easy to teach a puppy to enjoy being held and handled. Use lots of food treats and praise to help your pup feel comfortable being touched by human hands. This will ensure your pup is easy to groom, restrain, and examine. This will also help your pup avoid lots of fear and anxiety in the years to come!

Learn more: <https://dunbar.info/puppy-handling>

## EYE CONTACT

Look into one eye and give a treat, then the other and give a treat, and then both, and give two treats.

## EARS (x2)

Handle *both* ears, give a treat for each one. Look inside each ear, give a treat for each one.

## HUG/HOLD

Hug your pup briefly, then give a treat. Lure your pup into your lap and give a treat. Then another, and another...

## REAR END

Lift the tail and handle the groin area; give two treats!

## MUZZLE

Open the mouth, clean the teeth, and give a treat.

## COLLAR

Take the collar and give a treat. **Repeat over and over and over...**

Most dog bites occur when someone reaches for the dog's collar. Prevent this by teaching your pup to LOVE it when people reach for and take hold of their collar.

## PAWS (x4)

Handle *all four* paws, give a treat for each. Handle each digit, give a treat for each.

## Start Now

The younger your pup, the easier it will be to change their attitude towards handling. If your pup seems resistant to having a part of their body handled, now is the best time to address it.

Handle your pup and keep handling them even if they seem comfortable so they stay that way as they grow older.

## Start at Home

Start by getting your pup comfortable having their entire body handled by you and everyone who lives in your home.

Next, get your pup comfortable being handled by new, unfamiliar people. This will help your pup feel comfortable and confident being handled at the vet clinic or by a groomer.

## Use Food

Don't feed your puppy from a food bowl. Instead, hand-feed your puppy their regular food during training and handling as "treats."

## Slow & Easy

If your pup is at all resistant to handling, you should do lots of practice, but in short sessions with lots of breaks and lots of treats!

