

HANDLING

LEVEL FOUR

GET READY:

- ✓ Yummy treats
- ✓ This is best practiced when your dog is calm and relaxed, in an environment that is relatively free of distractions (living room, bedroom, etc.)

GET SET:

- ✓ Have your treats easily accessible (pocket, pouch, etc.)
- ✓ Dog should be relaxed and at ease

GO:

- ✓ This is a great exercise to do in an informal manner, while you are sitting with your dog in the evening, when they are relaxed and laying down (Not Asleep Though!)
 - Approach your dog, making sure they know that you are there, and pet them in the usual way
 - As you are petting them begin to move your hand around to areas of their body that you don't normally pet (arm pits, tail, backs of legs, etc.). This will vary for each individual owner and dog.
 - Gently rub these areas. Every time you rub them, and they remain in their current position or look at you, and not your hand, stop touching them and mark and reward them.
- ✓ If at any point your dog growls, moves away or stiffens up, stop and give them their space. **DO NOT CORRECT YOUR DOG FOR GROWLING!!** This is their way of telling you that they don't like what's happening and want you to stop. Continuing despite these warnings, could lead to a more dangerous display from your dog, such as a snap or bite.
- ✓ If you have a new rescue dog, **BE VERY CAUTIOUS**, if attempting this. I would encourage you to not try this without professional help/evaluation.

