

HANDLING

LEVEL THREE

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 toward their head.
 - Gently touch/stroke their head, making your way toward their muzzle. Every time you touch/stroke them, and they remain in their current position or look at you, and not your hand, stop touching them and mark and reward them.
- ✓ As you progress with this apply, the previous steps to these different levels of touching:
 - Lift jowl
 - Gently lift front of mouth to reveal front teeth
 - Gently lift both jowls from the top to reveal teeth
 - Rub down snout and down sides of muzzle
 - Rub chin
- ✓ 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.

