



Fighting the Impulse to Grab

Like their human counterparts, puppies need to learn that if you want something you just can't take it whenever you get the urge. Patience and proper protocol is required, also known as basic puppydog courtesy.

Place your puppy in a sit or you can start with four paws on the ground. Grab a treat and lower it to your puppy's mouth. Start from above her head--at about the height of your waist.

Do not give any commands such as "stay" or "leave it". Your puppy must keep her position as you lower the treat-- this is for her to figure out on her own!

If she tries to jump up to access the treat calmly say "too bad" and withdraw your hand . . . putting the treat out of sight.

As soon as she repositions herself either into the sit or four paws on the ground, make the treat reappear and begin lowering it to her nose.

If your puppy fails 4 or more times, lower the treat a little faster the next time. You want your pup to win so she will remain interested in the game.

Initially, as you lower the treat, keep it moving at decent pace as you lower it...and let her win every 3rd or 4th try by moving the treat down more quickly. As she becomes an ace at this game, try it with higher value items such as a toy. For more challenge try moving the item at a slower pace to her nose and from all directions, such as the front or the side. Practice in different positions

More concisely:

1. Pup is in a sit
2. You lower the treat at an average pace to your pup's nose.
3. Pup jumps up
4. You say "Too bad" and withdraw the treat out of sight.
5. Reposition your pup into the sit if she hasnt done so herself and start again immediately!

Repeat!

Make the game winnable by lowering the treat quickly every so often.