

## Training Plan: Collar Grab

**Time:** 5-10 minutes

**Supplies:** High-value Treats, bait bag

**Goals:** To help animals become comfortable with people touching or grabbing their collars.

### Instructions:

This training plan should be utilized as a prerequisite to the Leashing training plan.

#### Level 1:

Present a hand (as if you are going to shake someone's hand) at a low angle, a couple of feet away from the animal, immediately feed from your opposite hand, then remove both hands. Take a 5-10 second break during repetitions. Practice this in different positions.

When the animal appears comfortable, slowly present your hand at closer distances, roughly 6 inches at a time, until the animal is comfortable with you reaching and holding your hand close to their collar/neck.

1. Present a hand
2. Immediately feed from your opposite hand
3. Remove both hands
4. Take a 5-10 second break

#### Level 2:

Present a hand and gently rest it on the dog's collar, then immediately feed from your opposite hand, then remove both hands. Take 5-10 second breaks between repetitions. Practice this in different positions.

At this level, to move your animal so that your hand is rested on their collar/neck, offer food and lure into this position. **Do not** move your empty hand, and instead move the hand with food in it, using it as a lure.

1. Present a hand, and gently rest it on the dog's collar
2. Immediately feed from your opposite hand
3. Remove both hands
4. Take a 5-10 second break

#### Level 3:



Present a hand, gently grab the dog's collar with your fingertips and immediately feed from your opposite hand. Take 5-10 second breaks between repetitions. Practice this in different positions.

1. Present a hand, gently grab the dog's collar with your fingertips
2. Immediately feed from your opposite hand
3. Remove both hands
4. Take a 5-10 second break

#### **Level 4:**

Present a hand, gently grab the dog's collar with your fingertips, apply light pressure and step or shift in the direction of this pressure, immediately feed from your opposite hand, then remove both hands. Present treats slightly ahead of the dog, so they move forward with you. Take 5-10 second breaks between repetitions.

1. Present a hand, gently grab the dog's collar with your fingertips, shift or step in the direction of pressure
2. Immediately feed from your opposite hand
3. Remove both hands
4. Take a 5-10 second break

Then, begin using the Leashing Behavior Plan, for dogs.

#### **Reminders:**

- If at any point the animal appears uncomfortable move back to a previous level
- Take 5-10 second breaks between repetitions
- Practice in different positions