

Training Plan: Hand-Feeding

Time: 5-10 minutes

Supplies: High-value Treats, bait bag, back-scratcher

Goals: To teach animals to approach and eat from hand and become comfortable doing so.

Instructions:

For cats, the below steps can be completed with a back-scratcher.

Level 1:

1. Enter the animal's kennel or area and sit or kneel
2. Create a treat trail toward you by tossing treats toward the animal, progressively closer to you
 - a. Be strategic, leaving a small pile of treats, or a "better" treat near to you at the end of the treat trail
3. Once the animal finishes consuming treats, toss a treat away and repeat the above steps
4. Do this until the animal appears comfortable

Level 2:

1. Create a treat trail toward you by tossing treats toward the animal, progressively closer to you
2. Once the animal finishes consuming tossed treats, drop a few extra treats from your hand
3. Toss a treat away and repeat the above steps
4. Do this until the animal appears comfortable

Level 3:

1. Create a treat trail toward you by tossing treats toward the animal, progressively closer to you
 - a. Begin using fewer treats in a treat trail
2. Once the animal finishes consuming tossed treats, feed a few treats from your hand
3. Toss a treat away and repeat the above steps
4. Do this until the animal appears comfortable

Level 4:

1. Wait for the animal to step toward or approach you, then drop treats near to you
2. Once the animal finishes consuming treats, feed a few treats from your hand
3. Pause for 1-2s, then feed a few treats from your hand again
 - a. If the animal does not linger, return to the above step



4. Toss a treat away and repeat the above steps
5. Do this until the animal appears comfortable

Level 5:

1. Wait for the animal to step toward or approach you, then feed from your hand
2. Pause or take small 2-8s breaks, feeding the animal when they linger
 - a. If the animal moves away, return to the previous level
3. Then, use the Handling (for Cats or Dogs) Behavior Plan

Reminders:

- If at any point the animal appears uncomfortable, move back to a previous level or training plan