

Learning how to "Roll Over"

Just to reiterate...tricks are a great way to polish *YOUR* training skills, build a good relationship with your dog, have fun, and impress people. When I meet with folks in private lessons I always ask what skills the dog already has. I love it when they say the dog has a trick. It means they've taken a step further in training, in a relaxed and fun way.

Remember when teaching a trick:

- Take it one baby step at a time and reward for every correct baby step.
- Try each step about 3-5 times and then take a break so the dog can process.
- Remember there is no need to try to name a trick before it is completed as the dog won't relate the command to the full trick. Being excited and happy about his progress will help him understand he is doing the right thing long before he understands what "Roll Over" means.

Here we go:

First Baby Step:

- Have your dog in a down, relaxed over on one hip.
- Hold a treat in your hand right in front of his nose.
- Lure him to turn his head in the direction of the elbow you can see (the other elbow will be underneath him if in a relaxed down).
- When his nose reaches his elbow give him the treat, repeat 3-5 times.

Second Baby Step, adding on to First Step:

- Once his nose reaches his elbow, the hand with the treat goes from his elbow to his shoulder blade, *ALWAYS* very slowly and close to his body.
- When his nose reaches his shoulder give him the treat, repeat 3-5 times.

Third Baby Step, adding on to the first two steps:

- Once his nose reaches his shoulder, keep moving the treat in your hand over his body, *ALWAYS* very slowly and close to his body.
- You want his head to keep turning and following your hand.
- He should flip all the way over.
- Ta Da!

Sometimes they get stuck upside down. If this happens drop the treat on the ground close to his body so he keeps reaching for it and flips over.

Once he does the trick from start to finish a few times you can start to name it.