



CHIN

Level 2

Goal: To the word “Chin”, the dog will place his/her chin either in your open hand or on a chair and hold it there. This behavior is used when we need to groom or care for the dog. The dog is taught to stay calm, while we check for medical problems, trim the nails, check the ears or brush him/her. This is also a great way to give the dog choice. By resting his/her chin, the dog is letting you know he/she is comfortable with starting the manipulations and caring. As soon as the dog’s chin gets up, you’ll need to stop and wait for the dog to offer to rest his/her chin again.

Material: clicker, treats

TRAINING PLAN		
1.	Getting started Shaping/Luring the dog in position	Present your hand flat and open right in front of the dog. As soon, as the dog moves towards your hand, Click and treat (or say “Yes”) slightly above the dog’s head while keeping your open hand in position. This will make it more likely for the dog to touch your hand with their chin as they lower their head after eating the treat. You can also lure the dog by bringing the treat in front of the dog’s nose, then guiding the dog towards your open hand. Click/Treat (or say “Yes”) as soon as the dog’s chin touches your hand. Gradually increase your criteria until the dog targets your hand and sets their chin in the palm of your hand.
2.	Adding the cue	As the dog starts getting in position (chin rested in the palm of your hand), say the word “Chin”. Repeat 50-100 times.
3.	Building duration	Gradually delay the click after the dog gets into position, until the dog maintains the position for up to 6 seconds. As always, you’ll want to build the duration randomly, clicking after 2 seconds, 4 seconds, 1 second, etc. For better results, click (or say “Yes”, treat in position several times, after 4-8 seconds, say the word “Free”, then click/Treat.
4.	Building distractions	Repeat the steps above by gradually increasing the level of distractions. Tap on the wall, have another person nearby, another dog, etc.
5.	Changing your position	Ask the dog to “Chin” while you’re standing at different angles, sitting in a chair or even on the floor.
6.	From hand to Object	Work near a chair or other elevated surface like a couch or a coffee table. Place your hand flat on the surface and ask the dog for a “Chin”. Click & Treat in position, then “Free” to let the dog out of position. Click/Treat. After 10-20 repetitions over 1-3 sessions, gradually remove your hand until you no longer have to use it at all and the dog places their chin on any elevated surface available.
7.	Manipulations	Once the dog places their chin on the elevated surface and holds it there reliably, start gently touching your dog. Reward for holding the position. Gradually increase the level of manipulations until you can clip the dog’s nails, clean the



		dog's ears with a cotton ball and brush the dog. Anytime your dog's chin gets up from the surface, stop immediately. This is a way to give some control to the dog who can let you know when they are uncomfortable. Any areas of discomfort will need to be desensitized slowly.
8.	Generalization	Repeat the steps above in different locations and in different positions. Try different surfaces such as a table or a platform.
9.	Fluency	Gradually build up the level of difficulty until you can successfully get your dog to respond to the cue "Chin" in different places and with different levels of distractions. Use the cue in everyday life situation anytime you need to dog to stay still while you manipulate him/her

CONGRATULATIONS! If you've come this far, you have taught the dog a solid response to the cue "Chin". You have also taught the dog to calmly accept grooming and manipulations.