

TOUCH TACTICS

Although verbal feedback is your number one training tool, there are places to touch your dog that will give you big bang for your buck. These are places wired up with bundles of nerves routed right to the brain's pleasure centers. These play a major role in reward-motivated behavior. Most types of reward increase the level of dopamine in the brain, and if you're compounding that with desirable physical affection, you'll turn your dog into a praise junkie. That's going to make them very motivated to please you.

BASE OF THE TAIL

A lot of dogs really love a good scratch right here!

BACKS OF THE THIGHS

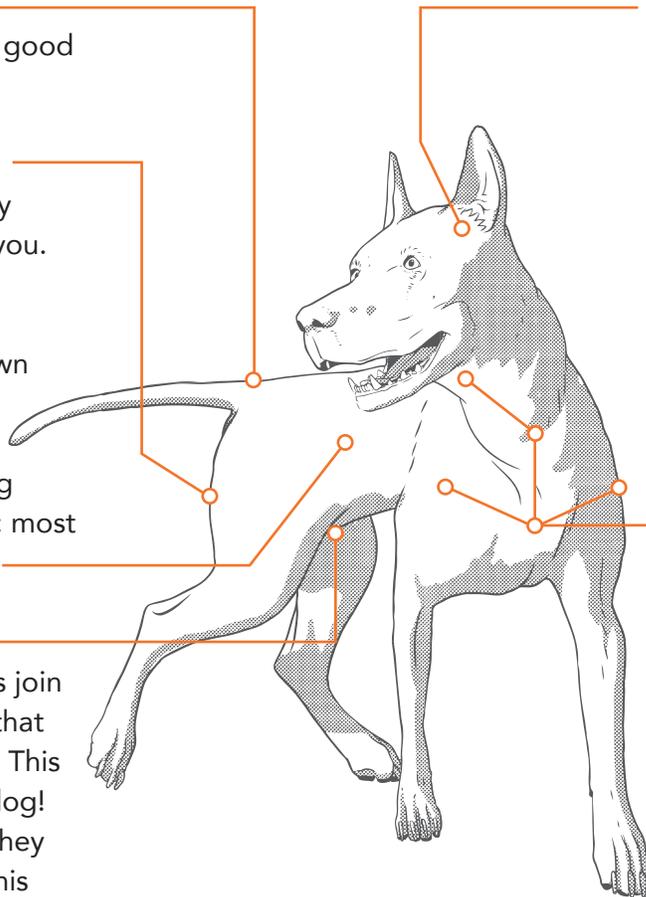
Scratching here will usually cause a dog to back into you.

SIDES OF THE BODY

Dogs prefer to be pet down the sides of their bodies. Stay away from the top of the head during training (especially from the front); most dogs find that annoying.

INGUINAL AREA

This is where the hind legs join the abdomen, and along that soft skin inside the thighs. This is like crack cocaine to a dog! Stroke here gently when they turn sideways near you. This one's great for Settle Down, and while you're hanging out.



EARS

Right in front of the ears is a prime spot. This one's great when they face you head on. After a Sit, a Stand, or Come, tell them how good they are while cupping their head in your hands and using your thumbs to rub gently in front of the ears. If you get the eyes to close halfway, you've just sent them to doggie heaven.

CHIN, CHEST, SHOULDERS

Scratch here when you approach your dog and offer praise. This is the first place I ever touch a new dog, mainly because it will make their first impression of me a favorable one. This is a great one for Sit, Stay, Come, Fetch, and even just checking in, for starters.

Your dog will have their own quirks too, just like we do. Some of us like certain things that other people find totally annoying. Although these six spots are pretty universal for all dogs, you'll get varying reactions based on what their favorites are, and their history with people. You'll also discover other things your dog may like in addition. Capitalize on all of your dog's spots and you'll see how your praise and feedback suddenly carry more weight.

Learn more with our video + article for this powerful strategy:

<http://www.simpawtico-training.com/how-to-pet-your-dog-touch-tactics/>