

# Where to Pinch Ear



- Use only enough pressure with thumb nail to get the desired response, and no more.

# Adding Pressure to Open Mouth



- **With Dumbbell in front of retrievers mouth:**
- **Command “Fetch”**
- **Pinch and twist.**
- **Pinch should be quick and sharp.**
- **Remember only enough to get them to open their mouth and no more**

# Retriever Opens Mouth



- Continue to pinch and twist (twist may or may not be necessary)
- Retriever opens mouth.
- Keep pressure on until dumbbell is fully in mouth.

# Dumbbell Now in Retrievers Mouth



- Hold ear, no pressure
- “Good Dog Hold”
- Notice loose leash.
- After holding for a moment, command “drop” and let retriever spit the dumbbell.
- **PRAISE YOUR RETRIEVER!**

# Learning to Reach



- After the retriever will open their mouth without inducing pressure:
- Hold dumbbell a few inches away from their mouth and command “fetch”
- Along with pinching the ear, guide their head toward the dumbbell.



# Reaching Further



- Sometimes the retriever will get up at this point.
- This is acceptable.
- Just make sure that they sit before you take dumbbell from them.

# Reaching Almost to Table



- Make progress in small steps.
- It may well take several weeks to get to the point the retriever will pick the dumbbell off the table.
- Be patient.

# Picking up off the Table



- Hand still on dumbbell.
- Dumbbell right in front of retriever, but far enough where they can easily reach it.



# Laying Down ?



- This is not uncommon at this point.
- Just get them in the sitting position before the release.
- They will learn to stand to pick up dumbbell soon enough.

# Walking on the Table



- **Dumbbell placed a few feet from the retriever.**
- **At first have your hand on the dumbbell.**
- **In this photo the retriever is a little further along in training, hands are off the dumbbell.**
- **This transition is sometimes difficult.**
- **Keep hand on ear and use force only if necessary.**

# Walking on the Table II



- With your finger hooked under the collar, and hand in position to apply pressure if necessary.
- Guide the retriever toward the dumbbell.

# Walking on Table III



- Retriever opens mouth and picks up dumbbell.
- Note, hand still in position.



# Picking Dumbbell Off Table



- **When dumbbell is actually picked up off table release hold of ear.**
- **Remind retriever to “Hold”**
- **At first it might be necessary to help hold the dumbbell in the dogs mouth.**



# Returning to Heel Position



- **Command “Here” and walk back toward the end of the table.**
- **Then “Heel”**
- **In this photo the retriever is given a little assistance to keep dumbbell in mouth as he turns into heel position.**
- **This is very important at first.**

# Returning to Heel II



- Retriever back in Heel position.
- Sometimes you will have to push their rump down, even if they know what sit means.
- Be patient
- Don't forget the praise!