



KATES KANINES  
DOG TRAINER

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TEACH YOUR  
DOG TO:

TRIM THEIR  
OWN NAILS

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MORE DOG  
TRAINING TIPS!



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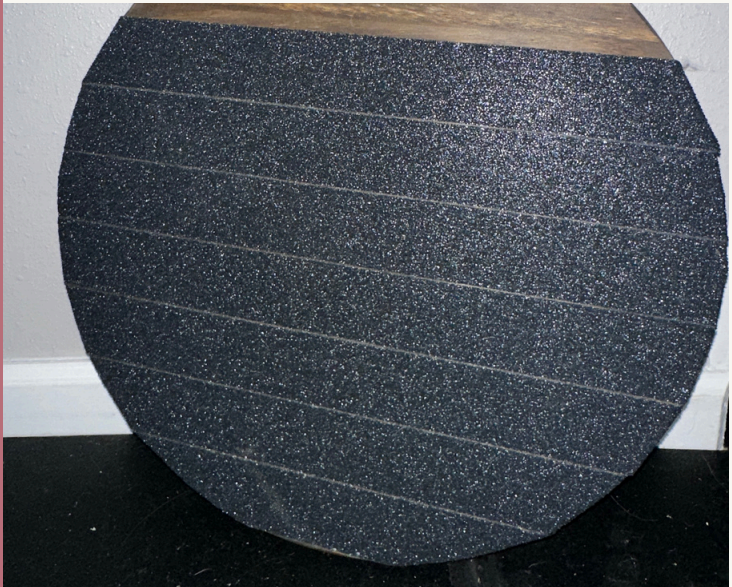


# STEP 1: SET UP AND INTRODUCE THE EQUIPMENT

# 1

## Prepare the board

- Attach sandpaper to the wooden board using double-sided tape.
- Place the board flat on the ground in a low-distraction area.



## Introduce the board

# 2

- Allow your dog to investigate the board.
- Reward any interest (e.g., sniffing, looking at, or approaching the board) with a treat or marker like "Yes!".
- Repeat until the dog is comfortable around the board.

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# STEP 2: REWARD ANY PAW CONTACT

## 1 Lure to the board

- Place the board flat on the floor in front of the dog.
- Use a treat to lure the dog to walk toward the board.
- Mark and reward when any paw touches the board, regardless of which paw.



## Multiple Paws

## 2

- As the dog becomes more comfortable, wait for two paws to touch the board before rewarding.
- Gradually increase to rewarding all four paws on the board.

**TIP:** IMMEDIATELY REWARD ALL PAW CONTACT FROM ANY PAW

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# STEP 3: INTRODUCE SCRATCHING (FRONT PAWS)

# 1

## Adjust the Board Angle

- Prop the board at a slight angle (e.g., leaning against a sturdy object) to create a surface the dog can scrape. I like putting it against my legs as I kneel on the floor.



## Encourage dragging

# 2

- Use a treat to lure the dog toward the angled board. Hold the treat slightly in front of the board to encourage the dog to extend their paw and pull it back down.
- Mark and reward any slight dragging motion with the front paws.

**ADVANCEMENT:**

**ENCOURAGE THE DOG TO REPEAT THE DRAGGING MOTION BY PAUSING BETWEEN REWARDS TO LET THEM OFFER THE BEHAVIOR AGAIN.**

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# STEP 4: INTRODUCE SCRATCHING (BACK PAWS)

## 1 Lay the Board Flat

- Place the board flat on the ground.
- Stand in front of your dog and use a treat to lure them backward onto the board.
- Mark and reward when one or both back paws make contact with the board.



## Encourage both back Paws

## 2

- Continue rewarding each time the dog's back paws touch the flat board.
- Gradually wait for both back paws to land on the board before rewarding.

**TIP:**

PUT THE BOARD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MAKESHIFT HALLWAY, ONCE 1 PAW TOUCHES TAKE A TREAT AND PUT IT INFRONT OF THE DOGS NOSE AND SLOWLY MOVE YOUR HAND FORWARD (THEIR OTHER FOOT WILL MOVE FIRST AND TOUCH THE BOARD. REWARD 2-3X IN A ROW WHEN IT HAPPENS

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# STEP 4: INTRODUCE SCRATCHING (BACK PAWS)

## 3 Angle the Board

- Once the dog is comfortable backing onto the flat board, prop it at a slight angle.
- Lure the dog to back up again, and mark and reward when the back paws touch the angled board.



## Encourage dragging

## 4

- Use the treat to guide the dog to step slightly forward and then back again, encouraging their back paws to drag down the angled board.
- Mark and reward any dragging motion, no matter how small.

**ADVANCEMENT:**

**ENCOURAGE THE DOG TO REPEAT THE DRAGGING MOTION BY PAUSING BETWEEN REWARDS TO LET THEM OFFER THE BEHAVIOR AGAIN.**

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# STEP 4: INTRODUCE SCRATCHING (BACK PAWS)

# 5

## Shape Consistent Scratches

- Prop the board at a slight angle (e.g., leaning against a sturdy object) to create a surface the dog can scrape. I like putting it against my legs as I kneel on the floor.



# TIP

To help your dog succeed when learning to back up, use an X-pen, furniture, or a barrier along a wall to create a narrow path. This setup prevents the dog from moving sideways and encourages them to back straight onto the board.

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# STEP 5: COMBINE ALL PAWS

# 1

## Alternate Front and Back Paws

- Encourage the dog to switch between using their front paws and back paws to scratch the board.
- Mark and reward when the dog successfully alternates between front and back paws.



## Add Duration

# 2

- Increase the number of scratches with the front paws before switching to the back paws.
- Gradually build the dog's endurance for both front and back paw scratching.

**TIP**

I LIKE TO MAKE THINGS EASY TO ACHIEVE SO WHEN I START #1 I WILL USE 2 BOARDS, ONE IN FRONT AND ONE BEHIND MY DOG. ITS ABOUT PRACTICING GOING BACK AND FORTH CONSISTENTLY.

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# STEP 6: BUILD DURATION AND COMPLEXITY

# 1

## Increase Scratch Duration

- Wait for the dog to perform multiple scratches in a row before marking and rewarding.
- Gradually increase the number of scratches required for a reward.



## Add a Verbal Cue

# 2

- Introduce a verbal cue like "Scratch" just before the dog performs the behavior.
- Reinforce the cue by consistently rewarding the behavior when the cue is given.

**ADVANCEMENT:** TEACH A RELEASE WORD LIKE "DONE" TO SIGNAL WHEN THE DOG CAN STOP SCRATCHING.

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# STEP 7: PROOF THE BEHAVIOR

# 1

## Practice in Different Positions

- Move the board to different angles and locations (flat, leaning against a wall, etc.).
- Reward the dog for adapting to the new positions.



## Add Distractions

# 2

- Gradually increase distractions (e.g., background noise, other people around) while practicing.
- Reward the dog for maintaining focus on the board.

**ADVANCEMENT:** PRACTICE THE BEHAVIOR IN DIFFERENT ROOMS, OUTSIDE, OR IN OTHER ENVIRONMENTS TO ENSURE RELIABILITY.

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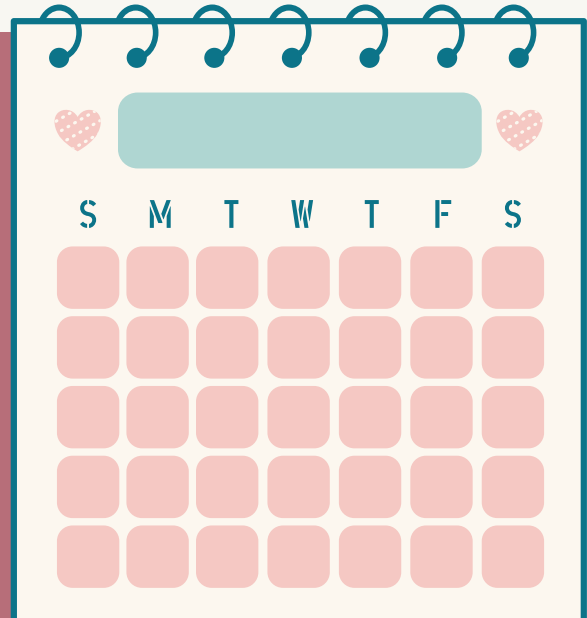


# DON'T FORGET....

# 1

## Practice Regularly

- Schedule consistent practice sessions to maintain the behavior.
- Keep sessions short and positive to avoid frustration.



## Adjust as Needed

# 2

- Replace sandpaper when worn out to maintain effectiveness.
- Continue reinforcing the behavior occasionally with treats or praise to keep the dog engaged.

**ADVANCEMENT:** PRACTICE THE BEHAVIOR IN DIFFERENT ROOMS, OUTSIDE, OR IN OTHER ENVIRONMENTS TO ENSURE RELIABILITY.

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