

THE SNATCH BACK

Hack

• WHEN to use it



You can use this on the fly to get a dog with no concept of “wait” or “stay” to hold still for brief and non-painful necessary husbandry, grooming, examination, etc.

HOW it works

Snatching - pulling/moving away quickly with an object or food in hand/possession (E) - signals to other animals that said item belongs to the holder and should not be pursued. It is a non-threatening but very clear **STOP** sign in the animal kingdom (G). This is a ridiculously effective means of putting a solid “wait” or “stay” prompt on the fast track in learning (L).

HOW to use it

Think about food in training like a magnet that connects to the dog's nose. This can be super helpful when we are trying to position our dogs in highly specific places or when moving them away from something, as we can “bring” the dog along by creating a connection point to their nose and then “pulling” the dog where we need her to go. When we are using food to teach a skill or create a functional behavior in real time and we do NOT want the dog to follow the food, however, we need to break the connection between the magnet and the dog's nose by “snatching.”

- ✿ • Hold a handful of treats up to the dog's nose once she is in the position you are aiming for, and give her a treat.
- Then simultaneously say “wait” (or “stay”) as you snatch your hand back towards your chest quickly.
- Immediately return your hand to her nose the first few times and give a treat while keeping your closed hand in front of her nose until you repeat the “wait” and snatch back again.
- You can quickly raise the time criteria to be longer before your hand returns to reinforce again.
- Duration can build SO quickly with the snatch!

