



# 10 Step Puppy Handling Exercise

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\*This approach is performed to improve your pup's ability to handle different types of touch, handling and sensation. It can be performed in ANY order. Do not put your puppy down if they are agitated or upset. If they are displaying resistance, stop until the puppy calms and then resume! Reward with positive praise and snuggles when done! \*

1 Rub and gently tug on their ears

2 Cover their eyes for 3-5 seconds

3 Open their mouth, inspect their teeth and place your finger inside of their mouth. You can rub their tongue and gums. I also always look at teeth to ensure they are coming in correctly. Every once in a while, issues with tooth eruption do occur.

4 Rub their belly and chest in wide circular motion.

5 Run your hand up their back (from tail to head) a few times to ruffle their fur. Also practice "heavy petting" - patting your pup's back like you are burping a baby

6 Gently tug and twist on their tail.

7 Rub your fingers in between all pads of their paws.

8 Tap on the tip of their nails

9 Put your hand on their collar and apply a slight tug or pressure

10 Touch their nose!