



# Teaching Trade

*This is a simple approach to teaching your dog to happily trade a valued toy or treat for another toy or treat. Note that this is a two-handed procedure.*

*You'll need a hoof or Kong, spray cheese or peanut butter, and high-value treats.*

## The Steps

1. Partially fill the hoof (or Kong) with spray cheese or peanut butter.
2. Give the hoof to your dog, and give her time to become engaged with it.
3. Take a high-value treat in one hand, and your clicker in the other.
4. Say "Trade" and place the high-value treat right in front of your dog's nose and lure her away from the hoof. *If the treat is valuable enough she will follow the treat with her nose as you gradually move it away.*
5. As she turns her head away from the hoof, Click, then pick up the hoof with your clicker hand.
6. Feed the treat when her head is turned all the way away from the hoof.
7. Immediately return the hoof (or Kong) to her and let her engage with it again.
8. Repeat

## Raising the Bar

After several repetitions give your dog time to move her head away from the hoof after you say "Trade", and before you use the food lure. If she is successful, click, remove the hoof, and treat. If she is not successful return to using the food lure immediately after you say "Trade".

## Troubleshooting

1. Your dog doesn't engage with the filled hoof or Kong.  
The filling and/or carrier is not interesting enough. Experiment with different fillings such as peanut butter, baby food, salmon cream cheese, etc.
2. Your dog doesn't leave the filled hoof to follow the treat with her nose.  
Your treat isn't valuable enough. Try different valuable treats such as liverwurst, cream cheese, meatballs, chicken, roast beef, etc. Getting the balance of value between the filled object and the treat used to lure and reward can, for some dogs, require a lot of nuance.
3. Your dog eats the treat quickly and returns to the filled object before you have time to pick it up.  
Delay your click until her head is turned away, then click and immediately pick up the object.