

STEP 5: REWARD MULTIPLE STROKES

At this stage your dog should be offering consistent paw swipes on the easel. You should now begin to wait for two or three strokes before clicking/rewarding. You are now ready to start asking for the behavior by using the cue, "paint."

STEP 6: REPEAT STEPS 3-5 WITH DOG WEARING PAINTIN' PAW®

Many dogs are uncomfortable with having their feet handled, so you should proceed slowly and make wearing the Paintin' Paw® a positive experience for your dog. At first, just touch his foot and give him a treat. Then, touch the Paintin' Paw® (PP) to his foot and give a treat. Then, slide the PP on his foot, treat him, and immediately remove the PP. Repeat this several times. When he is comfortable with having the PP placed on his foot, you are ready to proceed. Repeat steps 3-5 with your dog wearing the PP. At first he may "freeze" and be afraid to move the foot with the PP on it. Be patient, and click/reward for any paw movement at first. Then gradually "shape" paw swipes just as you did previously in steps 3-5.

STEP 7: CREATE A MASTERPIECE

You are now ready to add paint to the sponge applicator and create a masterpiece! Choose two or three colors that appeal to you or match the décor of the room where your dog's painting will be displayed. Have your dog apply the colors one at a time in sequence from light to dark. When your dog's painting is complete, don't forget to remove the Paintin' Paw® and apply some paint to the pads of his foot so that he can sign his work.



Important Tips

For you and your dog's safety, use only nontoxic poster or tempera paints. Paint in an area that allows for easy clean up. Each step of the shaping process may take several training sessions. Be patient, keep sessions short, and have fun!

You and your dog have had fun learning the "Fine Art of Shaping," a program developed and taught by DSA since 1996. At the same time, you have been introduced to the power of positive training. This easy, gentle method can also be used to teach your dog important everyday behaviors such as SIT, STAY, and COME WHEN CALLED.

Dog Scouts of America is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote responsible dog ownership and the importance of the human-canine bond. Local Dog Scout Troops spread the message through public demos, community service and role modeling. If you'd like to learn more, visit the Dog Scouts of America website.

www.dogscouts.org

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Teach Your Dog To Paint!
Using The Fine Art of Shaping
Developed by Dog Scouts of America



Bring out the artist in your

The type of training you will learn in this brochure is called Operant Conditioning. It is based on the principle that dogs, like most living organisms, are opportunists. That is to say, they do whatever works to get them what they want. A human example: You are walking down the street and pass a trash container. When you look down at it, you see a \$50 bill! It is quite likely that the next time you walk past that trash can again you will look inside for another \$50 bill. The behavior of looking into the trash container was rewarded, so you are likely to try it again and again every chance you get.