

Step 1:

Lure your dog into position by holding a treat between your fingers and bringing it down and back, so she has to lower her elbows to reach it.

If she lays down, have her stand and try again.

Don't touch her belly to keep her from laying down. She probably won't like it, and it's unnecessary.

Instead of luring, you can also wait for her to do this naturally - she'll "curtsy" when she wants to play or as she's stretching.

Add a hand signal and cue - wave your pinky as your lure her and say, "curtsy!" then reward her the moment she gets it right.



Step 2:

Fade out the lure - use the hand signal, then reward her with your other hand.

Encourage her to look at you (instead of staring at the treat) as she curtsies by holding the treat near your eyes just before you give it to her.



Step 3:

Practice in different locations, and when she's beside you, in front of you, while you're sitting and standing.



Mandatory: Lots of happy praise! Mix up your usual "good dog" or clicker click with "Wow, you're so smart! Beautiful job!"