Examining the Dog

• Safety
  – Collar on (you can grab it)
  – Owner at the head to help control

• Always assume that a dog will try to bite when you find a painful spot
  – Where are your face and hands relative to the dog’s teeth?
  – How will you restrain the animal?

Examining the Dog

• Where will you assess & treat?
  – Floor
  – On a table
  – In the owner’s lap
  – In your lap
Examining the Dog

• Commanding the dog
  – “Sit” (parental tone) + hand signal +/- treat
  – “Down” (parental tone) + hand signal +/- treat

Examining the Dog

• Commanding the dog
  – Trick a dog to side lying by following a treat when in a ‘down’
  – Push their hips over
  – Throw your leg over to hold
Examining the Dog

• Commanding the dog
  – For the difficult to lie dog:
  – To side lie from stand:
    • Push the dog onto the owner’s lap and slide it down the owner’s lap to the floor.

Examining the Dog

• Commanding the dog
  – To get a dog to lie from a sit:
  – Walk the dog’s front legs forwards while leaning on the dog to push him down.
Examining the Dog

• You are safest BEHIND the dog
  – Dog standing
  – Block the dog from moving
    • Stand on the contralateral side as that being tested or straddle the dog
  – Use the collar or scruff for control
Examining the Dog

• You are safest BEHIND the dog
  – Dog sitting
  – Controlling the head (gentle scruff side of head + ear with one hand)

Examining the Dog

• You are safest BEHIND the dog
  – Dog lying
  – Leg-over technique for control
  – Front leg exam / hind leg exam
Examining the Dog

• You are safest BEHIND the dog
  – Dog lying
  – Control the head (pinning with the hand or foot, by the therapist or the owner)
Examining the Dog

• Calming the Dog
  – Deep breathing & Sighing
  – Squishing / Compressions
  – Talking in a low comforting tone
  – Covering their eyes

Examining the Dog

• Correcting the Dog
  – Ah Ah! (this is the same in all languages)
  – NO!
  – Growling & nipping/biting are NEVER acceptable.
Examining the Dog

• Comforting the Dog
  – Reassurance after you hit a sore spot
  – Petting after you hit a sore spot
  – Take a moment before retesting the sore spot
  – Don’t be too rough