

Name Game

Level 3: Respond to Name Despite Distractions

Purpose:

The goal of this exercise is to strengthen the dog's response to his name in the presence of distractions.

Dog Skills

Give attention
 Respond to a cue

People Skills

Reinforcement
 Observation

Steps

1. When the dog is mildly distracted, say his name. Click at the first hint of response, including something as small as an ear twitch.
2. Continue with another activity until the dog becomes distracted again, then say his name. Click and treat for correct responses.
3. Continue practicing in new situations and environments, periodically saying the dog's name, and reinforcing all correct responses.

Click Points

- At the first movement of the dog's head in response to the cue.

Tag Points

- Click when the dog's head is moving.

Good for building these other behaviors:

Name Game Level 4; focus on handler in the presence of distractions; dog taking responsibility for maintaining contact with you when outdoors or separated, "checking in" frequently for possible new cues or when in doubt or stressed.

At home fun:

Take it on the road! While walking the dog on leash, speak his name and see if he can "check in" even though he is sniffing something interesting, or looking at another dog, or other people are walking by.