

# Name Game

## Level 4: Increase Duration of Eye Contact

### Purpose:

The purpose of this exercise is to increase the time the dog maintains eye contact in response to his name.

Begin these steps in areas with minimal distractions.

### Dog Skills

Give attention

Respond to a cue

### People Skills

Reinforcement

Observation

### Steps

1. Say the dog's name. When he looks at you, wait 1 second, then click and treat.
2. Slowly increase the duration of eye contact in 1-second increments. Do not reinforce if the dog looks away. Alternate between shorter and longer increments of time, not just longer each time.
3. When the dog is reliably holding eye contact for a few seconds, begin to reintroduce mild distractions, such as holding a treat out to your side. If the dog maintains eye contact for a second or two, click and reinforce.

### Click Points

- When the dog has maintained eye contact for 2 seconds.
- When the dog remains focused on your eyes despite a treat or other distraction present.

### Tag Points

- Click if the dog maintains eye contact for 2 seconds.

### Good for building these other behaviors:

Maintaining focus in the presence of distractions, or while awaiting additional instructions or cues.

### At home fun:

Test it out: At dinner time, give the cue and hold the food bowl out to your left side, then your right side. If your dog maintains eye contact, click and give him his bowl. Try it just before going outside for a walk, or when releasing the dog from the car.