

The Name Game

The Name Game is just that – a simple game you play with your dog to teach them their name, and to teach them that their name means that good things are coming their way! This is a great “first exercise” for new puppies, newly rescued or newly rehomed dogs. Some of trainers like to call this “Bowser Brainwashing”, which is both accurate **and** hilarious. It’s easy:

- Take 10 small, yummy treats and position yourself in front of your dog.
- Say your dog’s name.
- Pop a treat in their mouth.
- Repeat.

That’s right! Your dog doesn’t have to do ANYTHING to be rewarded during The Name Game – no wonder they love it so much! We are simply teaching them that hearing their name means to look to you for something good. You can easily implement The Name Game at mealtime with their kibble, or throughout your weekly routine – it’s quick and easy. An important thing to try and remember is not to use your dog’s name when you’re upset with them, or when something is going to happen to them that they may not like, such as a nail trim or trip to the vet – we want them to LOVE hearing their name, and ideally come running when they hear it – not be afraid that they’re going to get scolded or have something scary happen to them.