

Treat Tossing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgecOo4VDus&index=14&list=PL3iB_cmFKZ17yhTFprm3Y1dcp9TAbbjNz

Objective: On cue, the dog chases (and eats) a treat tossed on the ground, and then reorients to handler.

Why:

We are going to throw a lot of food. A LOT of food and we want the dog to understand the game = eat and look back. We do not want tossed food to affect the efficiency of our training sessions... it's worth it to spend a little time deliberately training this skill. For most dogs, chasing food and eating it is not a skill, but immediately reorienting to the handler might be.

To teach this behavior:

This one is so simple, you won't even believe it...

1. Click and reinforce your dog for looking at you 5-10 times. It doesn't need to be eye contact, orienting towards you is fine.
2. Drop a treat at your feet for your dog to eat.
3. Click when your dog looks up at you. Deliver one treat from your hand, and drop a second one a little farther away.
4. Click when your dog looks back up at you, deliver one from your hand, toss the 2nd a little farther away.
5. Repeat, incrementally tossing the treat farther and farther away.
6. Observe your dog's reaction. How long does it take him to reorient to you? Does he look at anything else on the way? After how many reps does the response start to slow down (assuming nothing else has changed, this is mental fatigue.)