

Exercise 2: Respond to Name

Goal

The goal of this step is to teach a dog make eye contact as the response to hearing his name. The name as a cue to make eye contact will be used throughout obedience, agility, rally and showmanship, as well as everyday life.

Steps

- 1. Cue the dog by saying his name and click when you first see the dog's head start to turn.
- 2. Continue with another activity to avoid accidentally rewarding staring.
- 3. Continue to periodically cue the dog with his name and clicking when he makes eye contact.

Reminders

- Click while the dog's head is turning
- Test your dog at random times (like while playing tug or before feeding him). Say his name and seeing if he will respond.



Exercise 1: Nose Touch Target

Goal

The goal of this step is to teach the dog to touch a target (your hand, a plastic disc, the tip of a wooden spoon) with his nose. This is a foundation skill for teaching many different behaviors.

Steps

- Hold the target close to the dog's nose and click any movement or look toward it. After each click remove the target and treat.
- 2. Hold the target 1 inch to the side of the dog's nose. Click any movement toward the target and treat. While the dog is still chewing present the target again.
- 3. Hold the target 1 inch above or below the dog's nose. Click any movement toward or touch of the target.
- 4. Continue to present the target in a variety of places close to the dog's nose, always clicking and treating movement toward or touching of the target. Then add a cue to the behavior. When the dog is reliably reaching to touch the target, begin saying "touch" or "target" just before presenting the target.

Reminders

- Click/treat any movement toward the target
- Click/treat the instant the dog's nose touches the target
- Remove the target after every click
- Present the target while the dog is still chewing the last treat