



## Attention

Attention is important to teach your dog because if he's not paying attention to you, he's not going to listen to you. Because attention is so important, you should reward it often and never take it for granted.

### Capturing

Every time your dog looks at you, mark (say "yes") and reward him. Don't say or do anything to try to get your dog's attention, just wait until he looks at you. If your dog listens and pays attention to you at home but forgets you exist anywhere else, make sure you have treats with you any time you leave the house with your dog, and practice catching the split seconds when your dog looks at you while you are out and about.

### All Eyes on Me

Show your dog a treat and then hold it out to the side of your face, about 18 inches away. Don't say anything to your dog. Ignore any of his attempts to steal the treat. Eventually, your dog will glance at you. As soon as he does, mark ("yes") and give him the treat. Repeat this exercise until your dog looks quickly at you as soon as you hold up the treat. Then gradually increase the amount of time the dog looks at you before you give him the treat. Start out small, just a half second, and build gradually to 10 seconds. Then try holding a treat in your other hand, in both hands, moving the treat while your dog looks at you, or holding it higher or lower.

### Name Game

This game teaches your dog to look at you when he hears his name. Start in a room that is very boring for your dog. When your dog is not looking at you, say his name once in a happy voice. When he looks at you, mark ("yes") and then give him a treat. Wait until he looks away and repeat the game. Practice until your dog looks at you immediately 5 times in a row. Move to a slightly less boring room and play again. Once you've played the game in every room of your house, try it in your yard or on your porch. If your dog does not look at you when you say his name, resist the urge to say his name again. Instead, make a noise or touch your dog lightly to get his attention. Then try again when your dog is less distracted.

### Look at That

This game is especially helpful for dogs who bark at people or other dogs because they are excited or scared. Mark ("yes") and reward with a treat the second your dog sees a dog or person. You need to catch the split second before your dog starts barking. Over time, your dog will learn to look back at you for a treat when he sees a dog or person. If your dog does not look back at you to get his treat when he hears "yes", you are probably too close. Move farther away from the dog or person and try again.