



## The Name Game

This game helps to teach your puppy its name and that looking at you is a great thing. It's also brilliant for reminding older dogs that their name is something to be listened to and not just ignored.... Normally I would never recommend repeatedly using your dog's name, but when each repetition is paired with yumminess then it definitely works... This game DEFINITELY helps with getting your dog's attention straight away when you call!

You will need: One dog: a distraction free place like the kitchen: lots of your dog's favourite treats cut up into teeny pieces no bigger than your little finger nail: enthusiasm!!

### First stage

In the first step we won't use the dog's name at all – this bit is all about getting his attention.

1. With your dog in front of you, place a treat on the floor just to the right of you. Let the dog eat it
2. When he's done he will look at you to see if there are more on the way – AS SOON AS he looks at you say 'Yes!' or 'Good!' and put another treat on the floor, this time to the left of your feet.
3. Repeat, remembering to say 'yes!' at the EXACT moment your dog looks at you for more treats.
4. Speed things up so that dog is zipping right and left picking up the treats and looking at you in between

### Top Tips:

- If the dog is looking at the food instead of you – put your hands behind your back.
- Keep the treats tiny or the dog will take too long eating and the energy will wane

### Second Stage

Once your dog has the first step nailed, try this:

1. This time, throw the treat as before but AS THE DOG STARTS TO EAT THE TREAT call his name – **once** and with energy!
2. As he turns to look at you say 'yes!' and throw a treat the other way
3. Repeat – remember - this is all about timing! The sequence is:
  - a. Throw treat
  - b. Dog starts to eat treat
  - c. Call name
  - d. 'Yes!'
  - e. Throw treat etc.....

### Top tips:

- if the dog doesn't look at you when you call his name DO NOT CALL HIM AGAIN! Wait a second and if still no response make kissy noises or anything that will get his attention – mark that response with a 'yes!' and try again.
- When the dog gets the game his head will be zipping round to look at you every time you say his name – and running backwards and forwards like a loon in between. Great fun for him, great learning too ☺

**Practice playing the game for a few minutes, a couple of times a day – don't over-do it – keep it fresh!**