



TRULY FORCE FREE ANIMAL TRAINING

Name Game

Purpose:

The goal of this exercise is to capture and reinforce periodic eye contact, or “check-ins” from your dog. Repetitions of this skill should be spread out between other activities, so the dog learns to check in periodically versus staring constantly at his owner.

Steps:

1. Watch your dog, and click the moment he makes eye contact with you.
2. Continue with another activity to avoid accidentally reinforcing staring versus checking in.
3. Continue to casually observe your dog, clicking and treating when he checks in with eye contact.

Good for building other behaviors:

This exercise teaches your dog to take responsibility for maintaining contact with you when outdoors or separated, the dog should “check-in” frequently for possible new cues or when in doubt or stressed.

At home fun:

Have a clicker and treats handy when moving around the house, and click if your dog checks in with eye contact. Do not click for sitting and staring at you.