



# Give Attention to Handler

STRONG STARTS  
FOUNDATIONS

CUE: "Focus" and hand to face

## GOAL

Dog looks at handler's face on cue and holds the look for a few seconds.

## USES FOR FOCUS

- Get your dog's attention.
- Give your dog something to do in the presence of distractions.
- Prepare your dog to train.

## REMINDERS:

- Tossing treats resets your dog to try again.
- Clicking your dog starts the reinforcement - Get the treat to your dog quickly, but you don't need to rush.

## PRACTICE

### Get Ready:

- Grab a bowl of treats and your clicker.
- Go to a quiet space with few distractions.
- Click and toss a treat to the ground near your dog.

### Step 1. Capture the behavior

- Be ready to click your pup for looking at you as soon as she eats the treat.
- At first, click your dog for looking at your feet or for turning in your direction.
- Wait for something a little better each time, maybe looking at your knees.

### Step 2. Shape the behavior:

- You know your dog has figured out what you want when she gets her treat and immediately looks at you again.
- Pause a second while your dog looks at you before you click and treat.
- Gradually lengthen the amount of time.

### Step 3. Cue the behavior

- Click and treat looking at you.
- Just before she looks at you, say 'focus.' When she looks up, click and treat.
- After a few practice sessions, try telling your dog, 'focus' at a time when she is not expecting it. If she immediately looks you in the eye, you have successfully trained focus. Otherwise, keep at it.