

WATCH - LURE METHOD

Why teach watch?

Because getting your dog's focus with a single word is very useful. You can distract him from enticing trash in the street, for example, or keep his eyes on you when walking past another dog. Plus, dogs that are rewarded for paying attention do it more. And attentive dogs are easier to train.

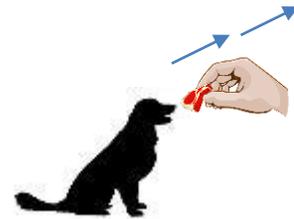
Before you begin:

Get your treat bag filled with small tasty treats and set yourself up in front of your dog. Your dog can be sitting, lying down, or standing. We only care about eye contact for this behavior. M/T = say your marker word, then give your dog a treat.

Step 1: Luring your dog to your eyes.

Face your dog and hold a treat in your hand without showing it upfront.

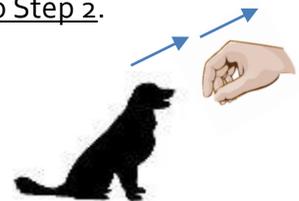
1. Place the treat on his nose and lure him to your eyes.
2. The second your dog makes eye contact, M/T.



Repeat the exercise at least five times. After five successful trials, move on to Step 2.

Step 2: Fading the lure, but use hand signals

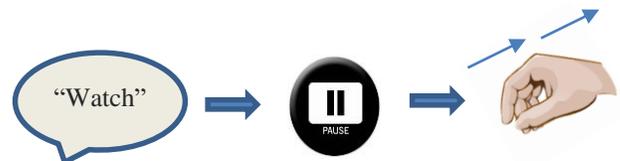
1. Use the same hand motion from nose to your face BUT no treat in hand.
2. The second they make eye contact, M/T.



Repeat the exercise about ten times. After 8 to 10 successful trials, move on to Step 3.

Step 3: Adding in the verbal cue

1. Say "Watch". Pause for a moment.
2. Then use your hand signal (No treat in hand.)
3. The second they make eye contact, M/T.



Repeat the exercise about ten times.

Once you see your starts making eye contact on the verbal "watch" and not waiting for the hand signal, you can start requiring him to watch on the verbal only.

Note, going on verbal alone is very hard for dogs! AND if there are added distractions you have not worked on, go back to the hand signal right away so you can keep the behavior strong.