



The Look

DEFINITION

When the dogs eyes are focused on yours

Warm Up

- 1) Hold a treat in your hand and let your dog sniff it (a baited food lure).
- 2) With the food lure, let your dog sniff it and then slowly move your hand towards your nose. Your dog should naturally follow the treat with its nose, eventually encouraging it to look up at you.
- 3) As your dog's eyes meet yours, say "yes" clearly and reward. Repeat this process several times, saying "yes" each time your dog's eyes meet yours.

Adding the Cue

- 1) After warm up, start giving the command "Look" before luring your dog with the treat. Use a confident, clear, and consistent voice.
- 2) Continue to mark with "yes" and reward as long as the dog gives you eye contact or looks at your face.
- 3) Repeat this process several times until your dog is responding to just the verbal cue. Gradually fade out using a food lure and only using it to assist them if they are struggling to understand the verbal cue.

Generalizing & Proofing

In this phase we start to introduce the 3D's of Training

DURATION: Start proofing by gradually increasing the duration of the look before you mark with "yes". It is important to randomize the duration and work up to longer times slowly (ie. 5s, 10s, 15s, 30s etc.)

DISTRACTIONS: Once your dog can hold a "look" for 30s - 60s, begin proofing distractions by holding your baited hand out to the side. Your dog will initially look at it, but be patient until you can mark and reward eye contact. Then gradually increase the distractions in your training environment.

DISTANCE: Once your dog can hold a "Look" for 60s and have mild distractions around them successfully, tether your dog to begin working on distance. With your dog tethered, cue them "Look" from 3 steps back. Mark with "yes" once the dog is successful then reward them and finally release them before repeating. Gradually increase your distance from the dog once they are continuously successful with the previous distance.

Remember to resort back to your food lure to help assist your dogs eyes if they haven't after 3s or lose focus.

