



Pawsitive Experience
1289 NW Promontory Dr.
Bend, OR 97701
541-318-8459
trainingdogs123@bendbroadband.com
www.PawsitiveExperience.com

Watch Me Please

Once you have mastered the attention/name game it is now time to teach the “watch me” command. This command teaches your dog not only to pay attention to you but also to pay attention until you release them.

Step One: Put a yummy treat at your dog’s nose and then take treat to your eyes and say “watch” or “look,” or whatever the word you will use to seek attention. Try to get your dog to pay close attention for between one and three seconds. If you are in a high distraction area like the first week of a training class, one second is often all you can hope for. Once you get that one to three second watch, use your reward marker (“yes” or “good”), and then quickly get a treat to his mouth.

Step Two: In this step, you will add a release word that tells your dog he can now go about his own business. The common release words are “OK,” “release,” “free,” or “at ease.” Repeat Step One and after giving your dog his treat, release him by saying “OK.” Take a couple of steps back so your dog will get up and follow. He is learning that “OK” means he can get up. If he doesn’t move that’s alright. Make sure to give the treat before releasing your dog.

Step Three: When you have your dog looking at you for at least three seconds ten times in a row, it is time to add duration. Work ten times for five seconds, and then try for ten seconds. Anytime your dog fails and cannot look at you for the duration you are striving for, you are asking too much of him and you need to make it easier. For example, if you are trying for a ten second duration and they look away at eight seconds, go back to the five second duration a few times and try to build back up. Always release them at the end of each series, which gives you the opportunity to repeat the exercise. I usually have students try to get to a thirty second “watch.” Any longer than that is unnecessary.

Step Four: Now it is time to fade the reward. Put the treat in the other hand, behind your back. Say, “watch” and put your non-treat hand to your eye. Start with only a one to three second watch and slowly build back up. It will go a lot faster this time around. We are now teaching them to watch your hand, not the treat.

Keeping your dog’s attention will be a lot easier at home with no distractions versus away from home. Only work at a level where you get success. At home you may be able to get a thirty second watch. At a dog park, on a walk, or in training class, three seconds may be all that your dog is capable of at first.

Meredith Gage
Pawsitive Experience
Trainingdogs123@bendbroadband.com
<http://www.PawsitiveExperience.com>