



## Name Game

Your dog's name is the most important thing he/she can know! It sets the foundation for your recall and gives you the ability to redirect them if needed.

For this exercise you will need:

- Kibble or small treats (smaller than pea size)
- Your dog
- And your voice, that's it!

This game is as simple as saying your dog's name and then giving them a treat. They don't have to sit or even come to you. The whole goal is to make their name equal something amazing is coming. Try to do this at least 25 times a day to start with. Since dogs don't generalize well, we want to make sure we practice with them in many locations. Start close and with little to no distractions and slowly build up from there.

Suggestions of where to practice this:

- Living room, kitchen, backyard, front yard, bedroom, a friends house, in the driveway, etc

Once all of those are mastered, take it into the real world and try doing Name Game in a parking lot somewhere (on leash for safety of course) and then you can also try this in pet friendly stores or on pet friendly patios or parks.

Tips:

- You can set aside 25-50 pieces of your dogs kibble each day to use towards Name Game
- If your dog doesn't come or move towards you when you say their name that's ok! Just go to them and give them the treat this will build up that reinforcement.
- The whole family can get in on the fun! Have other family members including kids practicing saying the dogs name and giving a treat.
- Once your dog starts responding to their name then you can add more variables like moving and calling them, or calling their name from another room. Make sure to reward them each time and keep it fun for them!