

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue

Golden Rule Training

Focus and Attention to Name Exercise

The attention to name is the first cue we learn when we start training a dog. Start training in a quiet area when he is first learning so there are no distractions. As his focus becomes stronger, it will be easier to add commands to your training program. Once the dog has it down, then move to areas where there are some distractions, and eventually distractions will not shake his focus. Start inside your house and then go outside or practice while on a walk outside.

The focus or attention to name cue is the start of the leadership training for both you and your dog. You will use this cue to build on other training areas as you progress in the program.

Step 1:

Hold a treat to your face and say the name of your dog, in an up-beat happy or inviting manner. When your dog looks at you, say "good"! Immediately bring the treat down and give it to your dog.

Step 2:

If your dog does not look at you, do not repeat his name, take the treat and bring it down to his nose. As soon as he focuses on the treat, say his name in that special way and lift the treat up to your face. Luring so he looks you in the face or chest area.

Say "good" the minute he gives you eye contact and give him the treat. Have the treats ready, this is the only cue that you can have the treats the dog can see.

Repeat for 4 reps, then 10-15 second rest, then 4 more reps

Only practice 3 times in a row, take a break then 3 more times. When you are practicing more cues, mix them up so the dog does not lose interest. Practice everyday.

This focus cue will help you get their attention before teaching them many other cues in the future. For example, you can practice this while on a walk, so have treats ready!