The Name Game
(Getting Your Dog's Attention)

Major Objective: *Why would you want your dog's attention? Teaching your dog to pay attention to you will help you better control your dog.*

Before You Start the Name Game

- If you, or members of your family, have been using your dog's name as a warning or punishment when he has done something wrong, he will eventually stop responding to his name. Don't use your dog's name in a negative way, (such as Maggie, No!). You want your dog's name to mean "good things" for your dog.
- If your dog does not respond to his name, do NOT repeat his name. By saying his name over and over again, his name becomes meaningless. Don't waste the power or importance of your dog's name.
- When you work around new distractions, be sure to use a high value food reward (like chicken, etc). This will help your dog learn that paying attention to you is well worth the effort!

Let's Begin!

1. Select a quiet place without distractions. Say your dog's name in a pleasant voice, if he looks at you, immediately say "Yes!" and give a small treat (Yes!/treat).

2. At this time, you are not asking the dog to do anything more than look at you when you say his name. So, say his name, then Yes!/treat when he looks at you.

3. If your dog is not responding to his name, try luring his gaze to your eyes with a treat, then Yes!/treat. Don't use the lure more than three or four times.

4. Repeat the Name Game until you are getting a response as soon as the dog hears his name.

Once your dog is giving you his attention reliably, make the exercise a little more challenging. For example, stand behind your dog and call his name. Remember, the objective is to get your dog's attention <u>whenever</u> you call his name.

Homework: Practice in 3 different locations this week. Where did you practice?

1._____

2._____

3._____

Notes: (What went well…what didn't go well…etc)