

THE NAME GAME PHASE 2

(with your dog on a 15-foot long line)



GOAL:

When you say your dog's name, he immediately turns his head toward you

WHERE:

In your yard and in **low-distraction** locations away from your home

TRAINING EQUIPMENT:

A wearable treat bag filled with treats, a marker signal (verbal or clicker), a 15-foot leash

SCAN ME



for details of Lisa Waggoner's book,

***The Original
Rocket Recall™:
Teach Your Dog
to Come***

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Once your dog is reliable with the steps in Phase One of the Name Game, it's time to train outside your home **in your yard** and in **low-distraction** locations away from your home with your dog on a 15-foot long line. Remember to always say your dog's name in a happy, loving tone of voice.

Training:

- Begin this game outside your home in your yard on a 15-foot leash.
- Wear a treat bag with treats and be ready to use your marker signal.
- Take a leisurely stroll in your yard. While your dog is looking away from you (but not overly distracted by something), say his name in a happy tone of voice (one time and one time only).
- The **instant** he begins to turn his neck toward you, even before a full head turn, mark/feed and praise, then remove your attention, giving him permission to look elsewhere. Continue strolling.
- Again at a good moment, say his name (one time) in a happy tone of voice. The **instant** he orients toward you or looks at your face, mark/feed, and praise your dog, then again remove attention from the dog.
- Repeat multiple times in your yard with your dog on the 15-foot leash until you get immediate head turns when you say your dog's name.
- Once your dog is consistently responding to his name in the yard, take your training on the road and practice on leash in slightly more distracting areas in your community (the park on a Sunday morning where there will be fewer people, etc.).
- Your goal is to help your dog always get it right. This is not about testing his limits with a newly learned skill.

Problem Solving:

- If your dog is too distracted on the 15-foot long line, gather up some of the leash in your hand to shorten the length or return to the 6-foot leash. He'll be closer to you and will be more likely to respond when you say his name.
- It's much harder for your dog to look at you when he's in a new, distracting location than when he's in your house or your yard. Refrain from repeating his name. You may need to use the kissy noise again. The odd noise should be enough to cause him to look at you, giving you the chance to mark/feed.
- If at any time the exercise isn't successful, move to a lower distraction area, and/or raise the value of your reinforcer, or go back to where you were last successful.