

## Eye Contact – Watch

There are many wonderful ways to work on getting your dog's attention and eye contact. All of which are fun and rewarding for you and your pup! Here are a few ways to begin.

### **Look at That! Or Find It!**

With your dog on leash toss a treat on the floor where your dog can see it and tell him to "Find It". Your dog will pick up the treat and then you wait until he turns around to make eye contact with you. Once eye contact is made, praise the dog (using their name) and toss another treat. This is a great way to encourage eye contact, reward them for their attention and can also be used when introducing a recall.



### **“Watch Me”**

Using a treat, of yummy proportions, wave it in front of your dog's nose saying "Watch". Bring the treat hand up to your face to encourage your dog's eyes to follow. You can also use a smooching noise to increase his attention. Once your hand is up to your face, for a second or two, say "good boy" and release your dog from the exercise by giving him the treat.

### **Attention to Name**

Begin with the steps of the watch me game. Replace the treat with a toy and "watch" with your dog's name. When holding the toy up to your face say your dog's name happily and follow with a wonderful play session with the toy. And repeat each time with increasing the amount of time your dog gives you eye contact.

### **Distractions**

All of the games mentioned above can help gain your dog's attention in distracting situations. But, you must first begin teaching these games in NON distracting environments. Believe it or not there are things in this world that will take your dog's attention away from you – distractions increase, attention span decreases. As you and your dog become familiar with these games start gradually increasing the distractions by playing them in another part of the house, yard, park etc...