

"Focus" Cue



Steps:

1. With your hand full of treats wiggle it over the top of their head until they lift their nose up to sniff. Make sure you keep your hand close to their nose.
2. Once they are focused on your baited hand, slowly move it upward towards your eyes.
3. As the dog looks at you, say "Focus" or "Watch me" once.
4. Mark with "Yes" and reward them, followed by the Release cue.
5. After pairing the cue with the lured behavior 10 times in a row, move the treat to either side of you, and as your dog's gaze follows the treat ask your dog to "focus" and wait for the dog to perform the behavior. It may take a few seconds for her to think through the process; be patient.
6. Continue practicing until the dog focuses on cue 90 percent of the time and then proceed to Focus from a Heel.



Hand Signal: With 2 fingers point at your eyes.

Verbal Cue: Focus/Watch me

Note: Do not repeat the cue if the dog does not immediately look up into your face. Instead, wait a long second to give them a chance to respond and say "oops" if you must. If they do not respond within 1 second, pause for several seconds and then give the cue again. If they still do not respond to the verbal cue on the second attempt, you will need to Go Back to Kindergarten and practice luring the focus behavior.

