

ELEMENT DOG TRAINING

Focus

- Definition
 - Teaches the dog to make eye contact with a person
- Purpose
 - Is a tool to help get your dogs focus
- Process
 - Stand in front of your dog
 - Make a noise (kiss or click noises usually work) and then move your hand up to and point at your eyes
 - If struggling to get started you can show you dog a treat and them move the treat up to your eyes
 - When the dog looks up and makes any eye contact (no matter how brief) Mark and Reward it
 - Repeat this exercise and build up 1-2 seconds of continues eye contact
 - Stop using the noise and change to the verbal cue “Focus” then pause for 1 sec before moving hand to your eye
 - The dog should start to look up when they hear the verbal cue
 - Start to change where you are located (besides the dog on left or right then move to behind the dog)
- Work on generalizing the behavior by practicing in different environments
- [YouTube video of Focus](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nRZA2GADT8)
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- Common mistakes when teaching touch:
 - Starting in to exciting an environment. We need to ensure the dog is willing to pay attention to us in order to teach this behavior
 - Increasing the difficulty too quickly. Moving too fast can let the dog practice not responding to the cue.

