



## "Head Turn for Name" Game

### **THIS GAME:**

- Builds connection between you and your dog!
- Causes the dog to hunt for you when you call his or her name!

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- You
- Your dog
- High-value treats

### **TERMS YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

"High Value Treats" - Your dog determines what treats are "High Value". High Value treats are treats your dog finds irresistible. For some dogs, that's everyday kibble. For others, it's hot dogs!

### **HOW TO PLAY THE GAME:**

- Let your dog mill around. Don't let him know you have anything yummy.
- Call your dog's name (once).
- When your dog turns his head to you, "mark" that instant with a "YES!" and MEET the dog with a treat as quickly as you can. (Do not stand still - part of the reward is that the treat comes to the dog quickly. Over time, we will slow down, but in the early stages, we meet half way.)
- Do not ask for any other behavior like "come" or "here". The dog earned the reward with the head turn.
- The only point we are driving home is "my name tastes good"
- Don't say anything else verbally. Only words are "(Name)" and "YES!" (then deliver the treat)

### **TIPS:**

- If you must repeat the name, only repeat every 3-5 seconds, getting closer, trying to catch his or her eye, being fun, and shoving a treat in their mouth quickly, with a "YES!" once you get that head turn!
- If you have more than one person, each of you can play this game! Simply wait for the dog to be facing away from you! Take turns calling by name. Once you call the dog, the other person is out. It's YOUR dog until you've completed the entire process through treat delivery. Then the game starts again!
- If you have more than one dog, you are only interested in the dog you called! You have no interest in the dog you didn't call. We want your dog to learn that his name tastes good and his sibling's name does NOT!

### **TO INCREASE DIFFICULTY:**

- call the dog from another room or play hide and seek!
- don't meet the dog quite as quickly, eventually working up to the dog coming all the way to you!