

ORIENTATION GAME

This game helps your pup learn that you are more interesting than the environment. Puppy learns to spring back to you instead of barking at other dogs, chasing bunnies or sniff a light post. This gives your pup a central point to focus on, and builds relationship.



Step 1

- In the garden, place food on the ground and get pup interested, while they are busy sniffing the ground, take a few steps away from that area. The second your dog **looks up** to see where you are, mark loudly with “YES!” or “NICE!”. Do not wait for your pup to start coming towards you, you want to mark the action of **looking up from the ground**. Place a few pieces of food on the ground at your feet. Do not call her name yet or try to get her attention. **ONLY** mark when he/she looks up from the food and begins to come your way. We will add her name into the equation later. So the sequence goes:

Put food on floor → Dog eats food → You run away → Dog looks up → You mark for looking up (Nice!) → Dog comes → You put food on the floor → Dog eats food → Repea

Remember: Never call Puppy away from an activity if you don't have a better reward than what they are currently doing. This will teach him/her that coming to you is a bad idea and Puppy will quickly learn to ignore their name. As your pup gets better at responding despite distractions, sending them back to the game or activity will count as the reward for coming to you, so you will not need to keep treats on you forever!

Step 2: Now you can add a cue. As your pup looks up at you and begins running, call their name and say "Come". Mark for coming towards you and reward with food on the ground.

Put food on floor → Dog eats food → You run away → Dog looks up → You cue (Dog's name, Come) → Dog comes → You mark her for coming (Nice) → You put food on the floor → Dog eats food → Repeat

VERY IMPORTANT!

1. Do not call name while your puppy is still eating food from the floor, only once they are already on their way to you.
2. **Only say the cue once.** If your pup doesn't come, do not repeat yourself, just give your Pup a moment to figure out what to do next. They will begin to approach eventually at which point you can mark, and make a huge fuss.

Step 3: This is expert level so don't try this until you are 100% sure you are able to call your dog away from a distraction. When they are reliably responding to the cue (Dog's Name, come) you can now say the cue before they start running.

Put food on floor → Dog eats food → You run away → You cue (Dog's name, Come) → Dog comes → You mark her for coming (Nice) → You put food on the floor → Dog eats food → Repeat

You can play this game with multiple dogs; it's fun and teaches them to orient to you no matter what the distraction.

[Click here](#) for a video example of this game.