



Finger Follow

This exercise will help you keep your dog's attention.

The finger follow cue is a technique that Janice uses in training AND in the ring to keep her dog focused and connected to her. The finger follow is used to lead your dog from place to place in an informal heel and to set / position the dog for the next exercise. This will help your dog clearly understand that even between exercises he is still working. Dog's love this game as it is heavily reinforced and therefore fun for the dog.

REMEMBER: Reinforcement builds Behaviour

Steps:

1. Place a treat between your thumb and third finger. Essentially you close your hand with just your index finger sticking out. Food should be hidden. It is important that the dog sees the same picture each time. Make sure you position your hand identically each time you do the exercise.
2. Let the dog smell the treat in your hand. Lead him into position with your hand (your hand will be at the level of your dog's head) and reinforce (feed the treat).
3. Once your dog has done this a few times then start with your hand raised higher, several inches above your dog's head. Give your release word and give your dog the treat.

TIP: When you are setting the dog into position while training do give them the treat. They did their job and it prevents the dog following you when you move away and helps to build a strong foundation behaviour.