WATCH

While “Watch” does not seem like a very important command to many people, it can be a very useful and versatile skill to have. “Watch” gets your dog’s attention and is used to achieve the advanced command “Heel”, it’s also a very fun trick to show off to your friends. There are reasons beyond even that, because the “Watch” command helps your dog get comfortable with eye contact, which is considered a threat in the doggy world. This command has a hand signal that we will use for the first week before adding the verbal command, just like we did with “sit”. To start the watch hand signal, here is what you do:

- Hold out a small, soft treat between your thumb and middle finger, with your index finger pointing down. Make sure your hand is lowered so that it is at your dog’s nose.
- Roll your hand up so that your index finger taps your nose
- **As soon** as your dog’s eyes look at yours and you gain eye contact, click and give them the treat

You should be able to get your dog to look you in the eye before too long using this hand signal. For the first week, you will not be giving any verbal command at all. Eventually, you can lengthen the time of the eye contact by tapping your nose with your finger before giving them the treat. After a week of practice, when you are ready to add the verbal command, here is what to do:

- Use your hand signal and say the word “Watch” at the same time
- If your dog responds correctly, click your clicker and give your dog a treat within 3 seconds
- If your dog does not respond, put your hand behind your back for 10 seconds and try again