



- Mobile/Text: 07532 723790
- Web Site: <https://cleverk9s.co.uk>
- Email: info@cleverk9s.co.uk

Reflex to Name.

(Objective: The dog hears their name and looks/turns around to look at the handler.)

Why is it being taught.

1. **Real life application:** To gain your dog's attention.
2. **Likely Life Rewards:** Can literally be a lifesaver for your dog and will give you a response to use for further training.

Preparation.

3. **Venue:** Initially best done at home with no other dogs being present and at a quiet time that is free of distractions.
4. **Equipment/Supplies:** Gather the equipment and supplies required,
 - a. Have a number and variety of high value rewards to hand. (See [Reward Selection](#)).
 - b. If "rewards" don't work, then praising and fussing should be reward enough at the puppy life stage.
5. **Brief:** Tell any human companions exactly what you want them to do and not to do.
6. **Note:** The treating in this practice is not a reward for a taught behaviour. This is classical conditioning. Delivery of the reward is repeated after the spoken dog's name. This links the sound of the dog's name with a treat from their handler. Be patient and do not show frustration as this could hinder training development.
7. **Starting positions:**
 - a. **Handler:** The handler sits (or stands) with the rewards to hand but out of sight.
 - b. **Dog:** In same space and nearby.

Audible & Visual Cues.

8. **Audible cues:** Your dog's "Name" is their anchor for training. A short name, that is clear when shouted, is easier to communicate amongst distractions and noise.
 - a. "Name"
 - i. **When:** When you want the dog's attention.
 - ii. **How:** Use appropriate volume for the conditions.
 - iii. **Meaning to the dog:** Use of their "name" attracts the dog's attention. i.e. are you talking to me?
9. **Visual cues:** Visual cues must be unique, simple, unambiguous, and consistent. See the (Using Visual Cue pamphlet).

- a. **When:** Same time as you say “Name”.
- b. **How:** Look directly at your dog’s eyes with a friendly encouraging expression.
- c. **Meaning to the dog:** Captures the dog’s interest and prompts it to explore what it means. i.e. There could be something in this for me.

Practice.

10. **Layer 1:** The layer 1 focus is to use the dog’s name to get their attention.

- a. Handler has,
 - i. Upright position/stance.
 - ii. Position by the supply of rewards with their dog nearby.
 - iii. Not to move away from their position.
- b. Handler says (dog’s name) - “Name”.
- c. Regardless of what the dog is doing, within two seconds of saying the name, give the dog the treat.
- d. Repeat layer 1 to reinforce the recall to name response. Repeat until the dog is giving the required behaviour.

11. **Layer 2:** The layer 2 focus is to get the dog’s attention with the handler in a different position.

- a. Handler,
 - i. Changes position whilst keeping close to the supply of rewards, with the dog nearby.
 - ii. Occasionally moves position.
- b. Handler says (dog’s name) - “Name”.
- c. Regardless of what the dog is doing, within two seconds of saying the name, give the dog the treat.
- d. Repeat Layer 2 until, when the dog hears the name, they turn immediately towards the handler.

Homework.

- 12. Repeat the practice frequently to reinforce the reflex to name.
- 13. Habituate the dog to the use of their name in various real-life environments. Practice every time you are out with your dog. Keep management and control as appropriate to the environment.

Fluency.

- 14. Consider the dog achieving fluency when the skill has become generalised for use in different environments. To confirm the skill test for the following,
 - a. **Distance:** Responds from the next room or, from the garden.
 - b. **Duration:** Keeps focus on you long enough for you to give another cue.

- c. **Distraction:** Will still look at you if giving attention to someone else or whilst eating a meal.
- d. **Latency:** They turn immediately to focus on the handler.
- e. **Precision:** No excessive repeating of the audible cue by the handler.
- f. **Speed:** If turning the dog should do so with direct enthusiasm and best speed.

When you are happy that you have completed this exercise, visit <https://cleverk9s.co.uk/reflex-to-name/> and please complete the simple online Quiz Form.