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The Foundation Behaviour Eye Contact

Eye Contact			
Requirements – Training Lead, Treats, Dish			
Reminder – Marker Word is GOOD!			
Current Behaviour	Has no inclination to check in with the owner	Goal Behaviour	'Check ins' happen frequently in all environments
Preparation	<p>Very similar to Reflex to Name plan however this is for the dog to get into them making a choice to 'check in with you' by giving you eye contact. All things are accessible through this. It is a good exercise to start with any puppy, rescue dog or your current dog for them to gain rewards by looking at you</p> <p><i>Everything that the dog wants to access comes through looking at you, whether that be eating from a food bowl, gaining your attention in a game, going forward to say hi to another dog, going forward to say hi to another person, or to get on the couch for some fuss.</i></p>		
Step 1	<p>Take a few treats in one hand</p> <p>Let the dog sniff the hand with treats</p>		
Step 2	<p>Take the hand up to the side of you out to a right angle</p> <p>Dog's eyes may follow your arm up, but then when he looks at you say 'GOOD' and off the reward from the hand. Allow the dog to eat the treat, and repeat a few times</p>		
Step 3	<p>Add duration – over time increase the duration before the marker word, such as one, two seconds, four seconds, two seconds etc. Vary the time so it's unpredictable and repeat</p>		
Step 4	<p>Add a different location – in the home, different areas of rooms, in the garden, out the front door (if need a leash) then ensure all safety aspects are covered.</p>		
Step 5	<p>Add different ways you do this too – such as different body positions, different arms, do it sitting on a bench, at the park, on the floor (that's a real test)</p>		
<p>Eye contact = mark = treat</p> <p>Perfect practice makes perfect eye contact makes for perfect rewards and becomes a habit (a conditioned motor pattern) for the dog to do check ins when out and about and also when in the home.</p> <p>Read 'Proofing' and 'Positive Associations'</p>			