

# Attention

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I can't stress enough how important is to teach attention to a boxer. The boxer must know what is going on around him that is his nature. He must learn that in those moments that you require attention it must be given no matter what.

Know that no corrections are made until you are sure the dog understands what he is expected to do. Once the dog knows but refuses to obey you, then you make a correction for disobedience.



Before I start any training session, I take the dog for a small walk so that he can relieve himself, it's a bit easy for me, I taught them a command for that too, so that I don't spend too much time before training waiting for the dog to relieve himself.

This is how I taught my boxers attention, with dog on leash to keep him near you. Stand still wait for the dog to look at you, eventually he will get tired of checking everything out and get bored and look at you. I had to learn to be very fast to mark the event "Yes!" and give the treat. Once he started looking at me, I fed him. If he looked away, I just waited until he looked and I marked the event and treat as fast as I could.

This is short and happy, don't want to tire or bore him. The attention span is very short on a pup and is a lot of work for their little grey cells. There is no rush in this, everyone learns at their own pace and time. He will eventually keep his eyes on you and then is time for more fun with your boxer.

My attention training took a long time, we were both learning and foundation work is very important, without attention you have nothing.

Once I have attention, a name was given to it, I called it "watch", then once he looked I would mark it "yes", and reward with food. This was practiced every time I was near the dog in a controlled environment, on a leash. Once the word was learned and attention was given 100%, then I started heeling, that's a separate lesson.

We went to outside locations and did the "watch", that way we both would get used to the different locations and environments. If someone requested to pet the dog, I would say "sorry we are in training" and moved on with our training.

I was taught to reward the behavior you want and ignore the one you do not want. All lessons are made into small parts for the dog to understand it. Only when he has learned all the pieces do I put it together and start switching it around to make sure he knows the pieces not just pretending.