



# Can You Hear Me?

Sometimes we think our dogs are ignoring our request for a behavior on purpose, when, actually, their mind was racing with competing motivators. They probably heard you just fine, but due to their arousal level, were unable to respond in the way you had hoped. We can help them think through their excitement, frustration, or anxieties by playing games at home.

## Prerequisites:

Make sure you have a few behaviors on cue in quiet circumstances. (Sit, down, stand, mat, crate, nose touch, middle, etc.)

Make sure your dog has a reasonable sense of impulse control for food or toy.

## How to play the game:

- With food or toy on the floor in front of your dog, stand beside your dog and cue a behavior.
- If correct release the dog to get reward.  
If incorrect, pick up the toy or treats. Power up the behavior without the distraction. and then try again.
- If the dogs steals the reward, that is just information on other games you need to skill up first.

**Level up:** Take a step behind your dog before cueing the behavior.

**Level up again:** Ask for multiple behaviors.