

# Attention

*Cue:* Verbal cue "watch" or "ready" or dog's name.

*Description:* On cue, my dog will make and maintain eye contact with me.

## *Elements:*

- *Behavior specifics:* Eye contact.
- *Duration:* Up to one minute.
- *Distance:* Respond to cue up to fifty feet away.
- *Latency:* Immediate.
- *Locations:* Everywhere.
- *Distractions:* Anything and everything. Especially distractions common in a dog show or performance environment.
- *Other:* Must be able to maintain even when I break eye contact.

*Training Plan:* (Accomplish each level in multiple locations of gradually increasing distractions.)

1. Get eye contact.
2. Add the cue.
3. Add duration of 10 seconds.
4. Add duration of 30 seconds.
5. Find and maintain eye contact from 10 feet away for 30 seconds.
6. Maintain eye contact for 30 seconds with handler not watching him.

## *Note:*

*#R/E:* Number of repetitions/Number of errors.

Why count repetitions and errors? Comparing the ratio of repetitions to errors gives you an objective way to determine the reliability of a behavior. When training a behavior, strive for 80% reliability at a criterion before making it harder.

If you work in sets of either 5 or 10 reps, it's easy to tell when you've reached 80% reliability. Use the following guide:

- **In a 5 rep session, 4 out of 5 correct equals 80%. If you make 2 or more errors, stay at the same criterion.**
- **In a 10 rep session, 8 out of 10 correct equals 80%. If you make 3 or more errors, stay at the same criterion.**

