

The Auto Check-In is unprompted; it is not the same as teaching “look”. Unprompted behaviors are more easily repeated, and will become a natural part of interaction.

It is never too late to have this natural eye contact become a meaningful communication tool in your relationship. The more ACI's can be captured and rewarded, the more pup will offer.

This is a two-party game; both human and canine must participate for the Auto Check-In to be successful.



**Pups seek reciprocal communication before they even open their eyes.** In those early stages, touch and warmth indicate proximity to their mother or littermates. When pups go home they seek the same kind of interaction. After a while, humans may sometimes fail to acknowledge the non-verbal communication pups seek. If that attention continues to be acknowledged, it will result in a very strong foundation. The natural decisions pups make seldom coincide with our preferences. It is much easier to direct the behavior of a pup who finds checking in with us rewarding.

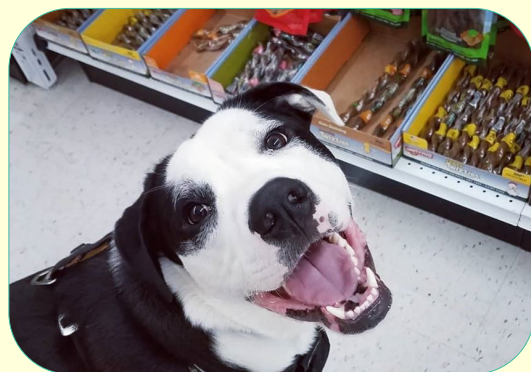
Welcoming a rescue into your home may seem different in the beginning, but they will seek information about how their new world is organized. Starting a relationship with the ACI will build the same strong foundation.

Keep in mind that the ACI is about connection. Teaching “look” is not the same. “Look” can be a good starting point for dogs not accustomed to giving eye contact, but the true power of the ACI is in the pup deferring to the handler for information.

## Benefits of the Auto Check In

**Relationship Information** - The ACI acknowledges the handler as the leader and decision maker in the relationship. Leaders pay attention and make appropriate decisions for the safety and well-being of others. The ACI may indicate pup is looking to the decision maker for direction. Your response guides the outcome.

**Situational Information** - Pups who offer the ACI may be letting the handler know that they are feeling uncomfortable about something in the environment, such as an approaching dog, a bicycle, construction work, new surroundings, loud traffic, etc. The handler should be able to acknowledge the information and make adjustments, such as providing a wider berth when passing a construction site. This kind of adjustment solidifies the role as a trustworthy leader.



**Relationship Strengthening** - When pup offers an ACI and the handler responds, they are strengthening the communication bond between the them.

**Owner Awareness** - The ACI encourages the leader to pay attention to pup and the environment. If the handler is otherwise engaged and misses that valuable interaction, they risk losing pup's trust.

**Freedom** - Because the ACI provides such a strong basis for a reliable recall (coming when called), pup may enjoy much more freedom.

## Related Material:

Acknowledged  
In the Human World  
On Leash

© 2020 A Dog's Life GR

616-676.-7551

www.adogslifegr.com