

## Coming When Called

Recall is one of the most important commands to teach to your dog. This takes time, effort and a lot of practice so patience and consistency is key.

### The Golden Rules for Recall:

- Always call your dog in a happy and positive tone. They will be less likely to respond to anger or frustration and doing so could hinder their future response as well if they associate your call with being scolded or reprimanded. They should ALWAYS associate your voice with really great things so be sure to use high valued treats and lots of praise, every time!
- Don't expect too much, too soon. To teach a solid recall you want to add in extra challenges very gradually and make it easy for the dog to get it right. If he gets it wrong, he's practicing a bad habit, so it's important to avoid these situations. If you need to get your dog but know he probably won't respond to your recall, it's better to walk up to him rather than have him fail.
- Practice in a fenced area or on leash. Safety first! Teaching a reliable recall takes time so until your dog has it down, you need to stay safe by only letting them off leash in a secure environment. You can purchase a 15 or 20 foot long line from any pet store as well (NOT a retractable leash). This will allow your dog to explore open areas safely.
- Do not chase your dog! This will teach them to do the opposite of what you want and most likely run away or treat it like a game.

### How To Teach Recall:

The easiest way to teach recall is to first break the behavior down into a few different steps.

1. Teach your dog to respond to their name and the verbal cue. To do this, have smelly, high value treats on hand and call your dog's name. As soon as they look at you, say "come!" and start to back up. When your dog begins to make a motion towards you, mark this with a click or "yes" and give them a treat. Repeat this exercise until your dog is quickly turning around and coming to you at this short distance.
2. Next, you will start to increase the distance he has to come before receiving the treat. Call him to you as you've been practicing but this time continue backing up for about 10 feet. Do this quickly so that he will speed up to get to you. When he makes it to your feet, click or say "yes" and reward with the treat.
3. Lastly, ask someone to hold your dog at a greater distance. Call them in an excited voice and continue making noise until they get to you. Clap your hands, crouch down and make smoochy noises, whatever it takes to keep their attention. Reward with a jackpot of treats (3-4) and make a big deal out of the success! You can also incorporate a sit command when he gets to you as well.



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\*Jackpot rewards are helpful to use intermittently to keep the dog engaged.\*

#### Hide & Seek Game

- This is a fun way to practice your dog's recall and the entire family can join in! Start by hiding just around the corner from your dog, but to where they can still see you. Call them to you in a happy tone and when they get to you, give them a tasty treat.
- Progress to being more hidden and encourage them to find you. When you make recall a game, your dog will learn faster and have fun doing it! Make sure not to let the kids chase the dog, the point is to have the dog come to you, not run away.

Remember to practice this behavior as much as you can. It can take time to get solid. You can implement it into your daily routine, by calling your dog in for meals and calling him to you for some play time. You should also work on this with distractions and more distance as your dog is progressing

Good luck and happy wags from the AAA team!