

GOOD DOG WORKS!

For Dogs, Puppies and People Too.
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Come! - Is An Invitation to a Party!

A brilliant recall requires two basic things from you 1) the willingness to really get focused on what you want and 2) the willingness to having at least one session of daily fun with your dog — two or three would be ideal but one is necessary.

Note: If you've already taught your dog that "Come!" doesn't really mean anything then it is time to choose a different word and start teaching your dog that the new word means great stuff will happen!

For the first week -Only call your dog with your recall signal when you know your dog will come. When you are sure that coming to you will be more rewarding than not coming to you.

- Begin by "charging" the word that will always mean "Absolutely wonderful stuff is about to happen and you better get over here fast or you're going to miss out!" When your dog with you say "the word!" in a loud, cheerful voice and feed your dog a very high-value treat - chicken, steak, whatever she thinks is totally wonderful. Repeat many times, until your dog's eyes light up when she hears the cue. Remember, she doesn't have to "come" for this part – she is just hanging out with you, eating great treats or chasing you or playing tug or whatever she thinks is great!

- Start indoors with low distractions. Say "Come!" loudly, in a cheerful tone of voice, and trot away quickly. You and your dog are running together, in the same direction. Reward him with a treat when you stop, or play a quick game of "Tug" or toss a ball for him to catch. If you keep your rewards high-value and unpredictable, your dog will find your recalls irresistible. "I wonder what exciting thing she's going to do next!"

- Recalls between two people. Start indoors, in the same room. One person lets the dog know that they have something, a treat, or a toy. They move away from the dog, calling "come". Reward when the dog arrives! Your dog can run back and forth between you.

- Hide and Seek. Still indoors, call your dog while you stand behind a piece of furniture or from a different room. Reward when they find you.

For the 2nd and 3rd week- Now, just outside your front or back door with your dog on a long line, say “Come!” loudly, in a cheerful tone of voice, and run away fast. You and your dog are running together, in the same direction. Run 10-15 feet. When he arrives reward her with a treat or drop 5 treats on the ground and help her find them or play a quick game of “Tug” or toss a ball for her to catch.

- After several days of practicing the previous steps, try this: Wait until your dog is a few feet away from you (still on a long line). Say “Come!” (cheerful and loud!) and run away fast. Run 10-15 feet and reward her at the end. Exciting and unpredictable! If your dog stays very close to you, drop a few yummy treats on the ground, walk to the end of the leash, wait until she’s eating the last one, then say “Come!” and run away. Practice this until your dog is great at the game.

- If she’s busy-don’t call her. Make sure you have her attention before you call her. Say her name first and wait for her to look at you. If you call her and she doesn’t come, do something else: make a kissy noise or squeak a squeaky toy, and make sure you have her undivided attention before you call her again.

- You can practice longer distance recalls outside with your dog on a long line - a leash that is 20 to 50 feet long (not a retractable leash!) or in a fenced yard. The long line keeps him safe and prevents him from leaving, but do not use it to pull him to you. Remember to turn and run away fast - at least at first. If he’s now flying to you happily every time, you can face him to greet him and reward him when he gets to you.

For the 4th week- Now you need a fenced area, yard, ball field, tennis court to start some off-leash work.

Repeat the previous steps. Take care not to call him if he’s involved in some highly rewarding activity such as eating deer poop in the garden:) Always call him in a loud, cheerful tone, and use a high-value and unpredictable rewards when he comes.

Add distractions and raise the level of difficulty slowly.

Teaching the recall is about inviting your dog to a party and thereby raising the value of you in your dogs eyes!