

RECALL

Here are a few general points that will highlight basic principles that apply to all dogs, and this is followed by exercises that have been found to be very effective in teaching "the recall".

- Never ever call your dog to show annoyance. Always be show you are absolutely delighted that he has returned.
- Before returning, your dog must turn away from whatever he is doing. Remember that some distractions, particularly smells and sounds, are beyond our awareness AND may be more interesting than you.
- Avoid calling your dog back to "do nothing"
- Teach your dog that coming back does not always mean 'end of fun'. Call him back often when out walking; put him on the lead, then let him go free; offer him a variety of rewards when he comes back and generally motivate him to WANT to come when called.
- Try different signals as well as just calling him. A whistle can be very effective.
- As with all training, work slowly and steadily; make it enjoyable; don't get frustrated - just take a break and start again later; don't repeat something that isn't working and always remember your dog is an individual.

Exercises

There are many ways to teach your dog to come back.

The simplest and easiest way is to: -

1. Teach your dog to enjoy being held by the collar. Do this simply by gently holding his collar, click and treat (C/T)
 2. When he is relaxed about this, call him to you in your home, grip the collar (C/T)
 3. Next try calling him from further away, still in your home; then extend to calling him from another room. Make sure you do this as a game.
 4. Now try the same routine in your garden
 5. Now try the same routine in a different place - but no distractions
 6. Gradually increase the number of locations
 7. Introduce distractions
- Teach the dog to touch the palm of your hand. Each time he does so, click and throw the treat away. He will run out, take the treat and return to repeat the action. As he runs back be sure to encourage him and use your "recall word"
 - If he is oriented to a particular toy. Call him, show him the toy and encourage him to come so he can play with it (and you). This works very well if your dog likes a tug toy.

- Have someone stand a distance from you. That person should hold the treats and your dog should be aware of that. Call your dog. At first he will stay close to the treats but will eventually give up. As soon as he comes to you, your helper should immediately give you the treats so you can reward the dog. This will teach your dog that he gets the reward by going to you and not seeking out the treat.

These are just some ways to achieve a secure recall. Use them - and any others you know - but seek at all times to make it a positive experience for the dog. Make him want to be with you.

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