

Come When Called

This is not behavior that most dogs do automatically - people under-reward it all the time!

Cue it (“here!”) (“come!”)

Make it happen – back away, make enticing sounds

Pay really, really, really well – you can’t “overpay” this – the more you pay the stronger it gets!

The key to a reliable recall is to make every time your dog comes to you reinforcing for them:

- Always set your dog up for success: begin with short distances in low distracted areas and gradually increase as your dog is successful.
- Say your dog’s cue only once- do not repeat the cue.
- Ensure every recall is a positive experience for your dog.
- Never call your dog for something negative (bath, nail trim, etc).
- Do not use the cue if you don’t think your dog will be successful in the situation.
- Reward your dog every single time.

Get started and Practice

- 1) Prepare a variety of small high value treats ahead of time (size of m and m’s)
- 2) Run quickly away from your dog, turn around and get low to their level.
- 3) Say your dog’s name once and give your recall cue once (Come! Here!)
- 4) Start cheerleading! Keep your tone of voice happy and encouraging.
- 5) When your dog reaches you hold on to their collar to prevent them from darting off.

- 6) Reward! A recall reward must be high value and rewarding for your dog. Praise your dog and give treats one after the other for a minimum of 10 seconds.

As their recall improves begin moving further away. Practice at least four recalls per day in various rooms in the home. Each time you change the environment (the room) the skill becomes harder, so have patience and decrease your distance to help your dog be successful!

Recalls Away from Meal on Counter

Prepare your dog's meal and put it on the counter so he knows it's there but can't reach it.

Go 8-10 feet away and call your dog (don't have any rewards on you: the meal is the reward). He probably won't come to you – he'll stay staring or jumping at the meal.

Keep encouraging him to come to you – it can take some perseverance!

When at last he comes to you, tell him how clever he is, go and get his meal and put it down at the position you were at when you called him. Do this for every meal (hang in there – they get better at this over time!).

Recalls Away from More Distractions

Continue to make your dog come when called away from their meals on the counter. Now also have them come when called away from the door to the yard or door to a walk. If you go to dog-parks, you can also make them come away from the gate to the park. Don't open any doors or gates until they come away from them

Recalls Away from Food and Toys

Continue to make the dog come when called away from his meals on the counter, and away from doors. Also practice this: put them on leash and put a little pile of food or a brand new toy on the ground out of his reach. To get the food or toy, he has to come to you in the opposite direction.

Long Line recalls

Attach a long line of either 15 or 30 feet long to your dog's harness (we don't recommend attaching to collars). Let them go sniff in a park or your backyard while you walk way holding onto the line. (You can add knots to and step on them) Once at a distance away; recall your dog to you and reward them with the party. If they are distracted don't give up, move closer if you have to and add some leash weaving and vibration to the long line.

Monkey in the middle

Each person has high value treats and recalls your dog back and forth to each a few times. You can change distance and your location to make them more enticed.

Hide and Seek

Hide in various rooms of your home and recall your dog to you. Once they find you big praise, excitement and reward them. If they are struggling finding you make it easier to start and make some cheater noises to help them.