

## **Teaching Your Dog To Come When Called (Recall)**

### **Goals:**

- Your dog comes when called every time
- Your dog pays attention to you

### **Cautions:**

- Do not do any more than 2 five to ten minute sessions per day or 8-10 correct behaviors at a time
- Make sure you release your dog after the session.
- Do not reward for unwanted behaviors
- Go at your dog's pace
- **DO NOT CALL YOUR DOG MORE THAN ONCE**-otherwise he will learn to ignore you.
- **DO NOT TEACH THIS ALONG WITH A STAY**- otherwise he will start to predict that you will call him after a stay command which could be dangerous depending on the situation.

### **Benefits:**

- Keeps your dog safe from dangers he may not be aware of
- You and your dog will be more in tune.

**Prerequisites:** Your dog should know his or name (name recognition) and be able to give eye contact.

## **HOW TO TEACH**

**STEP 1:** Put your dog on a leash. While still holding the leash walk back until you and your dog are the leash length apart. Keep some slack in the leash so that you are not luring your dog over with it before you call him or her. Call your dog by name and say "come" or "here" or "where's my dog?" anything that you choose that you are comfortable with and more likely to use. **REWARD!** Only call your dog **ONCE**. Repeating the request over and over again only teaches your dog to ignore you. Release your dog and start the game again.

**STEP 2:** If your dog is working well at the distance of a leash, then drop the leash and stand at the end of it. Call your dog's name and call him or her over. **REWARD** for compliance. Slowly increase the distance between you and the end of the leash reward for each compliance.

## SPECIAL REMINDERS IN THE HOUSE

- It is best to start teaching this exercise in a quiet room in the house. Once your dog is working well in one area move it on to the next start back at step one.
- When your dog is working well in all areas of your house add distractions. This can be done by simply calling your dog for absolutely no reason at all and giving him or her a treat. But you may also find other distractions that will be useful in your training.
- Make sure you always release your dog to let him or her know that the exercise is finished. You do not want to teach your dog to grab the treat and run away. So it would look like this:
  - Dog is sniffing around doing what ever and being a dog
  - Owner calls dog name and commands to come
  - Dog comes to owner
  - Owner rewards the dog
  - Owner asks dog to sit
  - Owner rewards the dog
  - Owner releases dog to play
- Some dogs will automatically default to the sit when they are called.

**STEP 3:** Once your dog is doing well within the confines of the house. Go back to step one and take it into your back yard. If you and your dog are just hanging out in the yard, again call your dog for absolutely no reason and reward.

**STEP 4:** When you dog has mastered the back yard, take it out on the road, starting back at Step 1 again. I would recommend though when going into open areas such as dog parks etc, that you use a long line incase your dog finds something more interesting than you. This way you can easily catch your dog if he decides to go off on a run.

**STEP 5: PHASING OUT THE REWARD:** You can't keep feeding your dog for everything so you will eventually have to phase out the rewards. If you find that your dog is doing well after one of the steps, start random rewarding before you move on to the next step. So it would look something like this:

- Dog is off sniffing being a dog
- Owner calls dog over
- Dog comes over
- Owner rewards dog
- Owner releases dog

Imagine this scenario happening 5 times in a row. However, #6 is going to get a lot of praise and pets! And then will be released. Next time you may only want to reward every 3-4<sup>th</sup> recall your dog performs.