



## Train your dog to come when called (recall exercise)

**You need to have full control of your dog, there may be times when for example you are out walking your dog off the lead and you need him to return immediately. The recall command is essential for successful control of your dog while he is off the lead.**

### **Equipment**

Dog treats, collar and lead optional, but advisable to have a light training collar, with an identity disc attached on your dog, when you are practicing exercises.

Other training aids that will be used are the Handlers Pot I suggest you set up the association between rattling the Handlers Pot and giving the treat, in the same way as you have already been doing. For the recall exercise, the extra command word you will be using should not deter you from using your reward word.

### **Suggested verbal command word.**

Use your dog's name and the command word i.e. come here or here etc.

### **Method**

You must carry on using your dog's name, and using treats or a toy to get his attention, and as your dog comes to you for the treat, pop in the recall command word you have chosen i.e. 'Come', or 'Here',

Have lots of treats available and your dog in the same room, you can do this activity by either sitting or standing. Use his name to get attention and simultaneously shake your treats or toy, as your dog comes towards you use the command word you have chosen. Treat while using your reward word.

Training does not have to be hard work, you can be watching the television, reading or maybe doing some work, while intermittently attracting you dog as above, using the command word and the reward word and treat.

Keep the recalls very simple at first for instance don't try to call your dog away from something he is doing that is much more interesting than you. Remember to keep distractions as low as possible. (Even chasing a fly will be more interesting than you if you have made this exercise boring).

As the recall begins to shape add a little more distance, for example, hiding in the same room, calling your dog down a passage or from round a corner in your house.

If you do not see or hear your dog when you have shaken a toy or pot of treats or used the dogs name to get attention, just leave it do not persist in calling your dog's name. Put the treat away and do something else. If he has been taking his time to get to you, don't take it personally, maybe he really does not quiet understand what you want, or it could be that you have not been exiting enough.

To vary the training methods we want to now introduce and add to our repertoire, handling your dog at the end of a recall. Start this by showing him a treat and holding it at his nose level, back up a few paces as you lure your dog towards you, now stop! Your dog may sit, give the treat for the recall with one hand and start to place your other hand under your dogs chin and gently stroke.

The next stage of the plan is to make sure the recall ends in the capture (the action of putting your dog on his lead). Your dog should now associate the recall word with all the prefixes we have set in place, the noise provided by shaking the pot, his name name always your best tool, the food treat and the verbal reward. The capture! Is only your ability to practice all the stages above but with the addition of one finger hooked round the collar as you feed with the other hand?

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