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Rocket Recalls, Solid Stays, and Real World Leave It!

Your class runs for 6 weeks. Rain makeups, if needed, will be added to the end of the session (see below). This class should be enjoyable and educational for both you and your dog. If you are having trouble with any aspect of the class, please talk with us about it and we will do our best to find a solution!

We will be using lots of food in this class as a way to quickly jumpstart behaviors. Bring a hungry dog, and make sure some of your treats are “whole food.” When practicing at home, train in very short sessions so that your dog doesn’t get too many treats at once. We will also be talking about other types of rewards so that you don’t have to be dependent only on treats.

Please bring to each class:

- Treats—lots of them, cut up small, and in a treat pouch
- A favorite toy or two to use as a reward and for mini-breaks
- A small blanket or towel for settle exercises
- Water and a bowl

This class meets in public areas.

- We want to keep this class safe and fun for everyone. So please let us know if something is not comfortable for your dog!
- Please take responsibility for your dog as you would in any public areas.
- There may be unexpected people, dogs, or other things going on.
- We will need to follow all leash laws. So please come with your dog on a 6-foot leash. No flexi-leashes please.

VERY IMPORTANT rain cancellation info: If it is raining or we have heat forecast for over 90 degrees at the time and location of your class, **please call 831-431-0161**. We will post at least one hour before class if we meeting or are canceling. It is your responsibility to check this message. We will also send out an email first thing in the morning so that you will know what the plan is. Please add mardi@gooddogsantacruz.com to your safe senders list.

If class is cancelled for any other reason, we will send an email, and also try to call you. If we cancel a class, we will simply tack one on at the end.

We are very sorry, but we do not offer make up classes if you need to miss.

If you have any other questions, feel free to ask at any point.

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Expectations: Practice 5 days a week at home for 15 minutes and 3 times each week away from home.

Goals: By the end of this class, you will have the tools

- To enjoy off leash time with your dog in medium distracting environments.
- To continue your recall training so that you can both go to the next level.
- To have your dog stay reliably in medium distracting environments, with respect for his or her individual needs.
- To continue your stay training as needed for your lifestyle.
- To leave exciting things alone and reorient to you when asked.
- To have the tools to continue your leave it practice to the level you would like to take it.

Equipment: We will be using front or rear clip harness and a flat collar, a six-foot leash, a treat pouch that can be move to one side, high value treats, a tug toy if your dog enjoys playing, and a variety of items for distraction training.

Recall Rules for Off Leash Success

It is essential that you follow these “recall rules” for the next six to twelve weeks, or until you have completed your training program. After completing your initial recall training, you will want to continue following these rules *most of the time*. This will help keep your dog’s recall strong and reliable for life.

1. Don’t end play by calling your dog to you. Instead, go get your dog or wait until he is ready to come on his own.
2. Always follow a recall with one of your dog’s favorite things—be it food, Frisbee, or playing with another dog.
3. Do a few “high value” recalls right away during off leash play—let your dog know that coming to you will be worth his while. Then release your dog to play again.
4. Timing is essential. Times that may be very difficult for dogs to come are when they are in the middle of greeting another dog, the moment they find a great smell, or in the midst of a prey drive chase (after a squirrel for example). At these times, up your odds of success by timing your recall for the moment the dog CAN MOST EASILY DISENGAGE. For example, if your dog is greeting another dog, wait for the moment when they are about to disengage naturally, then call your dog.
5. Avoid repeatedly calling your dog when you know he won’t or can’t come. Go get him instead.
6. Never (and this is a golden rule) act or behave in anyway other than your dog is the most wonderful being in the world when he comes to you--no matter what he was doing before he came.