

## COME WHEN CALLED (RECALL)

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### Why train recall?

So your puppy will come when it is truly important.

### The 5 rules of recall.

1. *Never call your puppy for anything unpleasant.* Such as nail clipping, bathing, or having his leash clipped on to go home from the park. In short, anything that might give him pause the next time you call him. Instead, go and get your puppy for these things.
2. *Never call your puppy if you are not sure he will come.* This is very important while you are training your recall. All recalls should be successful recalls. Work at your puppy's level: If he has a kindergarten-level recall, don't give him a graduate assignment like being called away from a cat in a tree.
3. *If you call your puppy and he doesn't come, make it happen.* Run over to him and put a treat in front of his nose, backing up as you get his attention so he follows you.
4. *Never repeat the command.* Resist the urge to call over and over and over. It only teaches your puppy to tune out the command. Call once and, if necessary, use rule 3. Make the recall happen.
5. *Fabulous rewards get fabulous recalls.* If you want your puppy to stop whatever interesting puppy thing he is doing and come running to you, make it worth his while. Use extra yummy treats – no dry biscuits here! – or a well-thrown ball, if that is your puppy's fancy.

### How to train it.

Step 1: Call your puppy. Cheerful tones often produce better results – and make sure you are loud enough to be heard, especially in busy environments. Remember to actually give the command ("Fido, come!"); your puppy's name by itself is not a recall.

Step 2: Make yourself interesting. Clap, whistle, squat, throw your arms out, and cheer your puppy in: "Great, great, faster, you can do it..." When he arrives, have him sit, then spill the treats or throw the ball. If appropriate, release him to go back to whatever he was up to.

**Training Tip:** Find an extra yummy treat your puppy has never had before but you think he will go crazy for (baby food, Cheez Whiz, liver paste) and hide it around the house. Once or twice a day when your puppy is not expecting to be called, call him and reward him with the extra special treat.

**Training Tip:** When working outside, practice in enclosed spaces or on a 30-foot leash until your puppy's recall is reliable.