



The Recall

The recall is not just one behavior. A good recall consists of several skills combined together to create a very necessary and functional skill for your dog. To teach it, it's best to break it down and work on each component separately until you're ready to put it all together, this will make reliability in the recall so much stronger. As a handler, you need to master these concepts:

- How to use **Body Language** and **Tone of Voice**, building the dogs attraction to your **Motion** and **Engagement** with you.
- **Luring** and **Treat Delivery**, to teach and motivate the dog
- Using Marker Words to teach
- Using **Leash Pressure** to guide, support and motivate the dog
- How and when to incorporate commands like Sit, Middle or Heel

We need to add consistency with our commands and crystal clear communication to have our pups come to us the first time, no matter what.

We initiate the recall with the word "COME!" or "HERE!". This should be said sharp and clear... think of a comic strip with the word "POW". Remember using sharp crisp words will help your dog understand you a bit faster. An upbeat, happy tone is important!

Once your dog looks at you begin **moving backwards** using your own motion to direct your dog. Use an excited "**Yes!**" **marker** to indicate a reward is forthcoming once they get to you. This is highly motivating at that critical moment when they are deciding if they want to come all the way to you.

Remember the treat delivery zones and the proper use of a treat lure. Bring them **all the way** into you. None of this stopping a few feet away, ready to dash off again!

Once they are within a few feet of you, stand up and give the finish command. It can be "Front" (sitting in front of you), or "Heel" or "Middle" (sitting in between your legs). Once they take the position you asked for, mark with "YES" and reward them with food or toys and praise.

Once they take the position you indicated, mark with "YES". If they fail to drop into that position, you may use a food or toy lure to help. If that fails, utilize the leash pressure that we have already practiced. In the beginning you will always have a leash on to let them know that obedience is mandatory. Once your pup in the required position and bringing their focus up to you, this is the "finish". Release them, and then do something else.

Every time you issue a recall command, make sure to ALWAYS follow through. This means do not issue a recall unless you have all the tools available (especially the leash) to reinforce it if your dog fails to comply initially! We will start with short recalls and a 6-10' leash, then graduate to longer lines.

Long line work is not much different than a standard recall. The goal of adding the long line is so we can practice getting successful reps of a full recall from a progressively greater distance. We initiate that recall the same way as we did with the shorter leash (Come or Here) then we use the long line to add pressure if they begin ignoring us. And again, we cannot stress this enough... FOLLOW THROUGH on the command. If we always expect 100% follow through, your pup will learn much quicker and exhibit the desirable behaviors we are working towards much more consistently.

