

# Coming When Called



Learning Shouldn't Hurt

Sarah Anderson, CPDT

(775) 219-4121

Info@dogz-inc.com

www.dogz-inc.com

## Quick Recall Tips:

1. Always run away from your dog if they get loose
2. Always praise your dog when they come to you – no matter what
3. Never punish your dog when they come to you
4. You must be more interesting than anything else your dog sees.
5. If your dog isn't paying attention, make short, happy, high pitched noises until they look at you.
6. Always bend at the knees to get low to the ground, not at the waist.
7. Say, "COME" only after you have their collar in your hand
8. Never pull your dog by their collar - its uncomfortable and can be punishing to the dog

## Get a Reliable Recall!!

Teaching your dog to come when you call is an invaluable skill. If there is danger, if your dog gets out, you want to be able to get their attention and get them safely and quickly back to you. The problem with the come command is that many people punish or scare the dog when he or she does come. These quick tips should help you teach a reliable recall and have your puppy eager and excited to come to you every time!

## Teaching a Dog to Come When Called



**Teaching your dog to come when called is the most important command they'll ever learn.**

All of us want a dog that comes when we call. What we don't realize is that we inadvertently train our dogs that "come" is a punishment. The dog is having fun at the park, we say, "come" put their leash on and leave – we just punished them for coming. "Come" here is the bath you hate "Come" get in your kennel! Come has now become a punishment and your dog is not going to do it anymore. Read these easy steps to get your dog excited to see you again.

## Teaching a Dog to Come When Called

Make sure you start teaching your dog in an environment free of distractions – we want them to be successful.

**Call your dog by their name in a happy, excited tone.** You want your dog to love coming to you, so if you have a nickname you use when they're being good, use that name to call them. If you are stern or mean when you call them, they will think that they're in trouble and not want to come. Coming to you should be fun!

**Bend your knees and squat down – just like you would if you were playing with them.** When you bend over at the waist you look scary to your dog. Lower your body to the ground.

**If your dog gets distracted and doesn't come to you, make yourself more exciting.** Make short, high-pitched noises. Run away from them. If you are the most interesting thing your dog sees, they'll want nothing more than to come to you.

**When they get to you, gently take their collar into your hand.** Many dogs have been traumatized by being grasped roughly by the collar when coming to their owners.

**Praise your dog when they do get to you.** It doesn't matter what happened before – or how long it takes them to get there, whenever your dog comes to you it should be the best thing that's happened to them all day.

**Call your dog to you several times a day for no reason!** If you want the perfect come command, "COME" cannot mean the end to your dog's fun. If every time you call your dog they think something bad will happen, they won't come to you anymore.

Praise them when they come on their own! All dogs "check in" with us throughout the day. Every time they do, praise them, take their collar and say "come" Your dog will love it!

## Common Mistakes:

1. **Playing chase games with your dog.** Chasing your dog encourages them to run away.
2. **Lunging at your dog or grabbing their collar roughly when they come to you.** This scares your dog and makes them not want to come.
3. **Getting frustrated when your dog doesn't come right away.** They aren't robots and they need to be taught that coming to you is fun. If they get punished when they come they won't anymore.

## Praising Your Dog

It seems easy: pat your dog on the head and tell them "good!" but many dogs don't like to be petted on the head, or hugged or roughed up. **Make sure your dog likes the "praise" you're giving** -not you. Otherwise **you may be punishing your dog by accident!**