

Teaching a reliable recall (Come).

1. For the time being, never use the word “come” unless you have two things in place:
 - a. a leash or long line on your dog
 - b. a treat or toy that your dog really loves (see item 4)
2. Method one for the recall, is the more formal exercise. Keep practicing this.
 - a. Sit, Wait, Come, Sit, Reward
 - b. Start with dog on a six foot leash. Then start practicing this at longer distances using a long line
 - c. Practice this in various locations: front yard, back yard, sidewalks, parks. As distractions increase, the reward becomes more important.
3. Method two for the recall is even simpler, but can be more effective because it’s random.
 - a. With your dog on the long line, let him/her walk wherever they want at the end of the rope.
 - b. At random times, call them “Rover, Come!”, reward them, and let them then go and sniff some more.
 - c. They may start to just walk around you, waiting for more treats. That’s ok but don’t reward them for this. Wait until they’re uninterested in you and sniffs on his/her own again for a few minutes, then call again.
4. Once things start improving (10 dollar rule – are you willing to bet \$10 that they’ll come to you each time?), make the rewards random, i.e. praise her once with no treats followed by two times with treats.
5. What reward? You may need to experiment. It must be something that is more interesting than the ground, a squirrel, etc. This is the key. If the don’t fly to you, you need to find something better.

WHILE YOU ARE TRAINING THE COME COMMAND< IF THE DOG IS NOT ON A LEASH AND YOU NEED THEM TO COME TO YOU, **DO NOT USE THE WORD “COME”**. USE OTHER WORDS OR MOTIONS LIKE “HERE”, “THIS WAY”, PAT YOUR LEGS, RUN AROUND, WAVE SOME TREATS.

I RECOMMEND WAITING AT LEAST 2 MONTHS AFTER THEY SEEM AUTOMATIC TO TRY USING “COME” WITH THE DOG OFF LEASH. IF YOU WANT TO TRY OFF LEASH, TRY IN THE HOUSE OR IN A FENCED YARD WHERE YOU CAN REINFORCE.

IF YOU DEVIATE FROM THIS PLAN, IT WILL TAKE MUCH LONGER FOR A RELIABLE RECALL.