

Coming When Called

A Potentially Lifesaving Cue

Reward generously every time your dog comes to you, even if they get distracted on the way, and use their favorite reward. Change your verbal cue if your dog is ignoring the old one: say, use "Come!" instead of "Here!" Short high-pitched noises are a good way to get their attention. Never call your dog to you to do something they don't like—they will learn quickly that coming to you is a bad idea.



MUSCLE MEMORY

Toss a treat away from your dog. After they eat the treat and turn towards you, say your verbal cue in an enthusiastic voice. Mark with a click or verbal marker like "Yes!" then treat again. Repeat many times.



Begin playing in the house. Say your recall cue one time. Make kissy noises or a short, high pitched sound so your dog can locate you. When they find you, praise and feed a treat.

HIDE AND SEEK

When your dog is several yards away from you, say your verbal cue and run away from your dog. When your dog runs towards you, click or say your verbal marker. Treat when the dog reaches you.

MAKE IT A GAME OF CHASE

Practice recalls in your home first before trying outside. Increase distance slowly. Do lots of short distance recalls, and start on leash if necessary. Use rewards that your dog loves, since coming when called is potentially lifesaving. Never scold your dog when he comes to you! Train "Touch!" to encourage your dog to come to you inside your home, so as not to overuse your recall cue.

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