

Recall is often one of the first things we like to teach our dog, and can be essential in emergency situations. It is also one of the hardest exercises for your dog in an environment with lots of distractions. Make sure returning to you on cue is highly rewarding and fun for your dog.

It is important to remember to begin teaching your dog to come when called in a place with very little distraction, such as in your lounge room with nobody else present. Over time, gradually increase the level of distraction.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Step one:** Begin by tossing a treat on the ground and running in the opposite direction. Dogs love to chase and will usually come running after you. You can use a happy voice, kissy sounds, treats and squeaky toys to get their attention.
- Step two:** When your dog has reached you, offer 10 seconds of treats on the ground (dispensed one after the other).
- Step three:** Once your dog is reliably running after you, you may introduce the verbal cue "here" or "come".
- Step four:** Once your dog has learnt this exercise in a low distraction environment, you can increase the level of distraction.

PRACTICE YOUR RECALL WITH A GAME!

- Step one:** Have a friend or family member hold your dog, while you move to a distance (start off with a small distance then increase it).
- Step two:** Have your treats ready, talk to you dog in a very excited voice, call your dog then get the person to let them go and watch them run towards you!
- Step three:** Reward them when they arrive. Make sure you practice this at home first before heading out and about.
- Step four:** As your dog's recall becomes more reliable you can add in distractions. Try laying out some distractions on the ground, such as food and toys or even have distracting people standing nearby. Practise your recall past these things.
- Step five:** Remember to start off with minimal distractions and gradually make it more distracting. Always reward your dog heavily to coming to you.

TIP



Make sure you are using the right kind of treat! Try a whole lot of different treats and find something that really motivates your dog. You could also try using play as a reinforcer.