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# COME WHEN CALLED (RECALL)

## Why train recall?

So, your dog will come when it is truly important.

## The 5 rules of recall.

1. Never call your dog for anything unpleasant. Such as nail clipping, bathing, or having his leash clipped on to go home from the park. In short, anything that might give him pause the next time you call him.
2. Never call your dog if you are not sure he will come. All recalls should be successful recalls. Work at your dog's level: If he has a kindergarten-level recall, don't give him a graduate assignment like being called away from a cat in a tree.
3. If you call your dog and he doesn't come, you must make it happen. Run over to him and put a treat in front of his nose, backing up as you get his attention, so he follows you.
4. Never repeat the command. Resist the urge to call over and over and over. It only teaches your dog to tune out the command. Call once and, if necessary, use rule 3. Make the recall happen.
5. Fabulous rewards get fabulous recalls. If you want your dog to stop whatever interesting doggie thing he is doing and come running to you, make it worth his while. Use extra yummy treats—no dry biscuits here!—or a well-thrown ball, if that is your dog's fancy.

## How to train it.

Step 1: Call your dog. Cheerful tones often produce better results—and make sure you are loud enough to be heard, especially in busy environments. Remember to actually give the command (“Fido, come!”); your dog's name by itself is not a recall.

Step 2: Make yourself interesting. Clap, whistle, squat, throw your arms out, backaway, and cheer your dog in: “Great, great, faster, you can do it...” When he arrives, spill the treats or throw the ball. Be generous and make a party out of it! If appropriate, release him to go back to whatever he was up to.

Step 3: Repeat. A LOT in low distraction environments like inside your house first. *Gradually* increase the challenge. Ex. move into your backyard, but call him from only 6' away at first. Avoid going from inside your house



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to off leash while playing at the dog park. There are *many* steps in between here and there. Make sure to include those steps in training practice before using your recall in real life, challenging situations.

### Training Tip:

Find an extra yummy treat your dog has never had before but you think he will go crazy for (baby food, Cheez Whiz, liver paste) and hide it around the house. Once or twice a day when your dog is not expecting to be called, call him and reward him with the extra special treat. Then let him go back to whatever he was doing previously.

### Training Tip:

When working outside, practice in safe, enclosed spaces or on a 30-foot leash until your dog's recall is reliable. Adolescence is a common time for many trained behaviors to fall apart a little. Keep your young pups on leash while outside in unfenced areas to prevent any training mistakes or dangerous situations.

### Need more help?

If your puppy is already ignoring you when you call his name, or is struggling around distractions, check out our **Done-For-You Day Training packages**. Training can leave even the best puppy parents feeling frustrated and impatient. Leave the tough stuff to us so you can skip to the good part: a well-behaved dog you love to spend time with.

We come to your home and work directly with your puppy three days a week, polishing up your puppy's recall skills. Plus it gives them a mid-day break and house training support! At the end of each week, you'll join a transfer session to build your skills so you can keep those newly-learned behaviors going after training is done. Each package also includes two follow-up sessions to make sure any challenges that might arise are worked through as your puppy grows.

Get ready to enjoy life with a dog who races back with joy on their face when you call them! Contact us today to schedule your initial consult: [www.ingoodpawstdt.com](http://www.ingoodpawstdt.com)