



# HOW DO I STRENGTHEN MY .....DOG'S RECALL?

Below are some simple and fun exercises, and some hints and tips to help you with training your dog's recall - you should use this sheet in conjunction with a "Why does my dog not come when called?" sheet.

1.

Random recalls:

- Scatter containers of treats in every room in the house so that you can always reward him.
- Reward your dog when you call him and he comes to you. If he comes straight to you, without hesitation, then give him a 'Jackpot' reward (this is a very high value treat or more than one lower value treats).

2.

Hide and seek indoors (and out):

- Have somebody hold your dog in one part of the house
- Hide in another room
- Call your dog.
- When he finds you ask take hold his collar and give him a yummy treat.
- As he becomes an expert at the game make it really difficult for him to find you. Then move outside in a safe, enclosed environment

3.

'Ping pong' recall:

- Arm one or two friends with his favourite treats.
- One by one take turns in calling him
- When he comes to the person that called him have the person take hold of his collar and then treat.
- Move father apart, as he gets better at it then move to an area with greater distractions.

4.

Reward with off lead play:

- Call your dog in a friendly up beat tone.
- Verbally praise him for returning to you.
- Put him lead on.

- Praise him enthusiastically and then let him back off the lead not forgetting to tell him to 'go play'.
- This is the most effective exercise as the reward for coming when called and being put on lead is to be let back off again to resume playing with other dogs or sniffing around the local park.

### Remember

1) Set yourself up to succeed and always end on a good note as this keeps you motivated and positive about further training.

2) Practise the behaviour using each of the following criteria:

- Recall across a room
- From room to room
- Come no matter who calls
- Come now!
- Come even if engaged in another activity such as drinking water, eating a meal, or playing with another dog.

3) Don't expect your dog to 'come' away from a great game with other dogs or people if you haven't taught them the recall in quieter less distracting environments.

- Never call your dog then punish him. He will associate the punishment with returning to you and therefore be hesitant next time you call him.
- Never call him to do an unpleasant task such as clipping his nails or cleaning his ears; go and fetch him.
- Always take control of your dog before giving him the reward.
- Practise the recall here, there and everywhere.
- Vary your rewards: a favourite toy, a treat, a game, a stroke or just verbal praise.
- Remember to give him a Jackpot reward for excellent responses
- Use a long line attached to his collar until his recall is reliable, this will provide added safety while your dog can still have a run.

