

Rock Solid Recall – Quick and Easy Tips



Step 1 – Preparing 🐾

- Begin by picking a command word, sound, or thing that makes a sound, to get your dog's attention. What we have found works best as a universal tool, is a whistle blown in 3 short spurts. A whistle is also the "same" sound no matter who is using it. Dogs can recognize the pitch of the whistle blown softly and associate it the exact same way when the same whistle is blown loudly. This is why we prefer it.
- If a command is used, be sure it is a one syllable, like back, here, or come. Dogs will take longer to learn words with multiple syllables than words with a single syllable, especially impatient puppies.
- If it is a sound, be sure it carries far enough to get your dog's attention quickly.
- Contrary to favored belief, only using the dog's name is not a good choice for recall training because you don't always treat (or want to) when you say their name.
- Use a high value reward. A very tasty quick-to-eat small treat.

Step 2 – Action 📺

- Start with associations for very young puppies (under 12 weeks of age) and use the recall option (if it is a whistle, you can blow it softly) when you place your dog's food down. Then work onto treats, by first approaching your puppy, using the recall, and then treating 2 extra times a day.
- Over 12 weeks of age, skip the recall association with food. Begin using the recall way with treat by approaching your dog. Do this no less than 2x a day, no more than 4x, at random times. Practice indoors for the first week. By the second week begin using the recall while in sight of your dog. They will come to you at this point very eagerly.
- Also praise when you reward.

Step 3 – Command ✅

- Stick to this 2x daily routine for 2 weeks. Its ok if you miss a day or two.
- Practice makes perfect. After the initial 2-week association, a super fun practice game is to let the kids hide, or you hide, while someone else distracts your dog. Use your recall, and let your dog find you. They WILL succeed.
- After the 2nd week, start using the recall outside. Practice this at least twice a week outside for a month. You may have to start re-enforcing a bit more or change up your treat variety during adolescence.
- Continue to do random practice sessions, but by now, your dog will be positively conditioned (wired) to this training method whether you simply have reward or praise.

Best of luck!! 🐾