

## Recall Exercises for Dogs

Coming when called is one of the most important commands your dogs must learn. It is useful everyday as well as for safety purposes. Dogs will not automatically come when called, so training is necessary. Try some of the following exercises to strengthen your dog's recall:



- Make your dog sit and say "come." Then back away praising it as it approaches you. Give your dog a treat when it reaches you. Repeat this several times. This exercise can be practiced on a leash.
- Back away from your dog about 8-10 feet before calling it. This exercise can also be practiced on a leash. When your dog arrives, ask it to sit, then reward it with a treat. If your dog does not come immediately, interrupt what it's doing and make it come to your calling location. Make your dog sit then praise him and try it again. Repeat until your dog comes on its own, then try increasing your distance gradually.
- If you have an extra person to help, send your dog back and forth between two or more people. Let each person call your dog and make it sit. Each person rewards your dog with a treat.
- Next, try calling your dog from different rooms in the house when least expected. Use treats for praise or start something your dog likes such as playing ball or going outside for a walk. Be sure to always associate "come" with good things. Never use the "come" command when you are going to do something your dog does not like. For example, do not call your dog and then give it a bath or clip its toenails if these are things it does not like.
- The final test for the "come" command involves distractions. Call your dog away from something it is interested in or sniffing. As soon as your dog comes, give it what it was wanting. This may be dinner or a toy. Once your dog masters this, try it at other people's houses or in public places such as parks. The more practice, the better!