

Recall – Coming when called

Must always be rewarded

And must always be worth your dogs while

Some 'do's'

- Say 'puppy come' every time he's bounding towards you anyway, and lots of praise when he arrives
- Say 'puppy come' as you're walking backwards with his feed bowl
- Say 'puppy come' as you're walking backwards encouraging him with his favourite squeaky toy
- You can also say 'puppy come' when he's sitting in front looking up at you – (this is the final position used in formal recalls), so doing this is the start of the recall exercise backwards, basically sitting in front looking at you is the end result of 'puppy come'. After he's been praised for this 'position' quite a few times, you can then walk backwards saying 'puppy come'.

Some 'don'ts'

- **Don't ever** call your dog to you then tell him off, even if you think you are telling him off for something unrelated, dogs will associate the telling off with the most recent thing they've done, in this case coming when called.
- Don't call him if you think there is the remotest chance that he won't come, this can teach him that he doesn't always have to come
- Don't call him and when the phone rings attend to that before he's come (and been rewarded), this can also teach him that he doesn't always have to come
- Don't make the only time you call him in the park the time you leave to go home, (going home can be spoiling his park play time), so to avoid this one call him for a quick treat and off you go again.

Troubleshooting Or what to do if he doesn't come

First get his attention

- Jump up and down and be silly
- Clap your hands and run backwards calling him
- Clap your hands and run the other way and make him chase you
- Lay on the ground and kick your heels in the air and giggle (even if the neighbours are watching!)
- Crouch and spring toward him (like a human attempt at a puppy play bow)
- Squeak a squeaky toy and throw it to yourself and run backwards

Initially you can praise the first few steps towards you – don't forget then to call him again though, as the praise signifies the end of your command

- **And if he doesn't come, you either need to go back three steps and retrain as the lesson has not been learned well enough yet**
- Or he may not have come as your prior reward level hasn't been high enough, and he doesn't see the relevance (this smell here is pretty good), so again back a few steps and *really* make it worth his while.
- Or he hasn't come as you have asked too much too soon, eg assumed as he comes in your yard with no distractions that he should still do this outside in the park with too many distractions around, so big reprimand for the trainer and back a few steps and

don't forget to increase praise for puppy.