

# Rapid Recall

*(coming when called)*



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## Teach your dog:

**Leave it** (or some similar cue to mean let something go by)

**Touch** (or similar cue to mean touch/target your hand with their nose or paw)

**Come** (or similar cue to instruct dog to come to you) Note: if you adopted your dog his/her come may have been broken by the past owners, in this case you'll need to change the word to 'here,' or something similar

## Warm up Exercises

30 to 60 second Leave it  
30 second Look  
5 Touches

Hyper pup? Add 5 Push-up's  
Practice before walks, during training sessions and anytime your dog loses focus

First, teach your dog the meaning of the word come in your home. Call your dog to you, and be sure to acknowledge them when they come 100% of the time. To acknowledge them, look at them and tell them they're good then give them a treat. Be sure to call them using the word you want to use (not their names).



As they get better, practice on walks or in your yard. Use a retractable leash or a long line (tied to a tree) to practice.



Set yourself (and your dog) up for success by calling them to you when they're going to come or when they're not seriously involved with something else (this is a more advanced come and should include a Leave it)



Encourage them to come to you by looking happy, running in the opposite direction or taking a knee....make it fun!!

## Ready to take the plunge....

Dogs shouldn't be off leash in an open area until you have taught them 'Come,' but once you do, it's time to test them. Set yourself and your pup up for success by using these techniques:

**Take another dog** – a dog is much more attractive to a dog than a human is, bring a dog with a strong come or recall with you to encourage your dog to follow them

**Backpacks** – most young, strong dogs should be wearing a backpack on all their walks, it will give them an additional workout, slow them down and provide them something to think about

**Bell** – a bear bell or cattle bell can provide you crucial information as to where your dog is at any time, and slow them down

**Drag a leash** – often I will use this technique to initially bridge the off-leash work. As your walking your dog in a safe area, drop the leash and continue walking. Watch their reaction and step on the lead if you get worried.

**Walkie Talkie's** – I've been using these for years to train dogs in distance and off-leash work. Secure a walkie to an extra collar and use it to call your dog. Great in areas where the mountains or large areas where dogs can get some distance.

## Ready for an exceptional Come?

**Never make Come = a bad thing** – so many people struggle with this. Since they need to call the dog to them to constrain or contain them. Consider this, dogs have short attention spans so call them to you and reward them for coming – after all how convenient is that! Then after giving them 30 seconds of attention, walk them in the house or crate or whatever you need them to do.

**In order to make coming on command automatic, you must make it better than the thing they came away from.** Why are we so stingy with treats? Personally, I want my dogs to look like rock stars when people are over so I have no problem rewarding them when we're alone. Would you go to work if they didn't pay you? Remember we want this behavior to be automatic, which means we have to engrain it 100% - give your dog delicious, wonderful treats when they come to you when you call!

**In order to make your dog happy about coming when called, make it worth his/her while (hip hip hooray!!!)** Treats aren't the only thing good in the world. Humans control a lot. We can give permission: to get on the couch or go outside or go in the car. If I'm working with a Shepherd, chances are we're playing a short, quick games of toss with a tennis ball. If I'm working with a Pittie, I have a rope toy and playing a little tug of war. As the distance increases I also increase my response. Having a dog come across a large field is a thing of beauty - celebrate it when they get to you with sincere acknowledgement.

**Never off leash before 100%.** Transitioning a dog from on to off leash must factor in your dog's personality, prey drive, location and time of year, exercise routine, etc. Shy dogs may just need a leash drag during the transition stage while high-volume dogs may need a bell, backpack, and leash drag.

**Never call in situations where they won't respond.** This one is tough for us but really important to build your communication with your dog. If your dog is already running after/towards something or deeply invested in smelling or investigating something your Come may fall on deaf ears. Know your dog, and if they get caught up in things, work on being a higher-value object than the thing they are interested in. This takes time but the important thing here is that you don't want your dog hearing and ignoring your Come, ever – so don't use it if they're going to.

**Acknowledge 100% of the time.** *In an ideal world, we'd give our dog's a wonderful treat every time they responded, but many times that isn't possible. So at the very least, be sure to acknowledge them every time they come with eye contact and verbal praise or a pet.*



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