

Evaluation Item: Recall ▾

Evaluator Level: Green ▾

Introducing Recall

Recall is undeniably critical, yet so many dog owners are constantly working toward a reliable recall. We should be practicing recall as often as possible, and rewarding as often as possible, so that this cue works when we most need it: In an emergency.

1. Practice the cue "Come!" Say it, and offer a very high-value reward when the dog comes to you. If the dog doesn't come to you, you just haven't made it enticing enough!
 - a. Try moving away from the dog. "Come" means that the dog should come to you, but so often we say "come" then we go find the dog!
 - b. Try making fun sounds, clapping your hands, and don't be afraid to lure them with a treat!
 - c. For dogs who do not have touch sensitivities, only reward them once you physically touch their collar/harness. This will teach that "Come" doesn't just mean "come near me," it means, "come to me and let me grab your collar."
2. Do not only practice recall when you are done with an activity. Frequently interrupt fun activities by practicing recall, then releasing the dog to go play again.
3. Don't repeat this cue unless the dog truly did not hear you the first time. The cue is "Come," not "come come come come!"

Adopter Highlight

A recall training exercise is a great time to talk to potential adopters and fosters about the importance of practicing recall, but also to discuss where this dog is at in their experience with being off-leash. This is also a great time to discuss an adopter's expectations with having their dog off-leash.

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