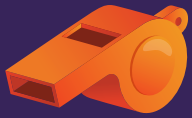




Janice Gunn's
**TIPS FOR A RELIABLE
RECALL**



Does Your Dog:



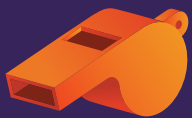
Come back **ONLY** when he feels like it?



IGNORE you when you call him?



STOP just out of arms reach?



REFUSE to be called off a chase?

If you answered yes to any of these questions your dog has a problem recall.

And... that's not just frustrating, it can be dangerous.

Common Reasons Why Some Dogs Don't Learn to Come Back

1

Urban dogs may not get as many chances to be off leash and don't get as much recall practice as dogs with yards and access to more green-space.

2

Many dog owners wait until their puppies are over six months old before they allowing them to be off lead. Once your dog reaches adolescence they become more independent and less motivated to come when called. *Even if you missed the puppy window for recalls you can still train a reliable recall in an older dog.*

3

Owner's "poison" or dilute the value of the come cue word by not following through when their dog doesn't come back. This essentially teaches the dog that **coming back is optional**.



Set up for Recall Success

part 1

DO

- Start training your new puppy or dog as soon possible. It is never too late to start.
- Practice within an enclosed area and / or use a long line. This will give you more control and prevent your dog from escaping if they get distracted.
- Make it fun! Practice a variety of recall games so that your training is new and exciting.
- Practice often but only for brief time periods. Puppies especially have short attention spans.
- Call your dog in a happy tone of voice. Dogs are very sensitive to tone. Saying “come” in a happy voice will have a better result than if you say it in gruff or annoyed voice.
- Train in a low distraction area, at least to start with. You can increase distance and distraction later.
- Make coming back rewarding! Returning is something your dog should want to do. The goal is to create a pattern where your dog thinks returning to you is the best thing ever.
- Follow up - if you say your come cue word and your dog doesn't come **go and get him!**



Set up for Recall Success

part 2

Believe it or not many people actually condition their dogs not to come back. The list below includes behaviours you want to avoid while training your dog.

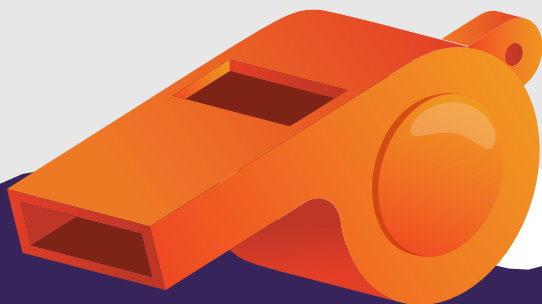
DON'T

- Don't get frustrated or punish your dog when they come back. It doesn't matter that they have caused you to be late or you have been standing in the rain. Your dog will learn that returning to you is a negative experience and coming back is not in their best interest. **It is important that your dog feels safe when returning to you.**
- Don't always call your dog just to end their fun. They are going to start seeing a pattern and will quickly figure out that coming back to you is the end of the party.
- Don't repeat the same exercise over and over. Use a variety of games to keep training interesting for both of you.
- Don't use your come cue word if you can't follow through. *In a pinch try clapping your hands or running away to attract your dog to you instead.*

Mix it up - Use the collar grab technique! (page 7)



If Your Dog Habitually Does not Come When Called **SWITCH TO A WHISTLE!**



BENEFITS OF USING A WHISTLE

- *Sharp, Crisp Sound*
- *Carries Further Than Our Voice*
- *Cuts Through Background Sounds like Running Water, Wind, & Grass Rustling.*
- *Has a Consistent Sound with No Emotional Overtones*

The sound of a whistle is a great way to replace cue words that may have been "poisoned" ie if you have been using the word "come" and your dog has learned that coming is optional then switching to a whistle gives you a fresh start!

Name Game

*Teach your Puppy or Dog Name Recognition
(and the start of a Recall!)*



This game teaches your dog to be excited and responsive when he hears his name.

It is also a great way to introduce using a **MARKER WORD** (or click if you are using a clicker) to let your dog know when they do something right.

We do that by using the marker word “yes”. When you ask your puppy to sit you would say yes or click the second your puppy sits and then give a treat. This lets your dog know they did what you were asking!

Play the NAME GAME:

1

Have 10 treats in your hand (and a clicker in the other hand if you are using one)

2

Say your puppies or dog’s name

3

When your puppy looks at you **MARK** the behavior either with a “Yes” or a click.

4

Reinforce the behaviour by giving the puppy or dog one of the treats.

Quick Tip: I always have treats in my pockets so I can reward my dog for returning on his name or just for checking in.

THE COLLAR GRAB GAME

This game is designed with safety in mind. There, no doubt, will be a day when you will need to lunge towards your dog to grab his collar to keep him from a dangerous situation.

Dogs have an unpleasant association with owners reaching forward and grabbing their collars. Often we grab our dogs by the collar to pull them away from something they or to stop them from doing something. Many dogs learn to come back but... stay just out of arms reach.

The collar grab game will condition your dog that collar grabs are a good thing. When you do need to grab your dog's collar in an emergency he won't back away from you. **When you are recalling your dog he will come all the way back to you.**



THE COLLAR GRAB GAME

HOW TO PLAY

1. Have your dog on leash.

2. Reach down and touch your dog's collar and give him a treat. Make sure your hand is touching or holding the collar as you deliver the treat to your dog.

NOTE: Play this game 2-3 times a day and in different locations, not always the same place. About 6 collar grabs are enough per session. This is easy to do and doesn't take much time at all.

If your dog moves away from you as you reach towards them with your hand, then put your hand on the lead part way down and give them a treat. As they become more trusting, move your hand further down the lead and reward each time until they start to like this game and you can work your way to the collar.

Building on the Collar Grab

Once your dog is allowing you to grab the collar instead of rewarding right away, hold the collar and wait until they look up at you (eye contact) and then reinforce. Your dog doesn't "have" to give you eye contact if you can't get it, but it's worth trying as it helps to build your relationship.

Next start walking forward with your dog on the lead and stop, grab collar and reward. You are now putting it into motion.

Final Step: You will know you have mastered the Collar Grab if you can get this last behaviour. Stand facing your dog, start walk backwards, and reach out your hand. What we want to see is that your dog will come and get close enough for you to grab the collar.

When out walking (on a long line), practice calling your dog, putting your hand in the collar, rewarding them, and then letting them go back to sniffing again. This creates a pattern where coming back to you gets them a reward and the fun doesn't end.

TREAT PARTY GAME

You can think of the treat party game as preparing an “ace in the hole” emergency recall to have in your back pocket for when something unexpected happens. **Perhaps someone left the gate open and your dog is on the road!**

Sometimes, owners can overuse their come cue word and their dog could learn to associate the cue word with unpleasant things like the fun at the park coming to an end. By teaching a separate, special cue “**Treat Party**”, this phrase will always have a favorable association for the dog and may work even if the dog is not responding to his regular come cue or his name.

How to Throw a Treat Party

- *Setup by hiding stashes of small high-value treats around your house and yard.*
- *Start by surprising your dog by saying “**Treat Party**” and dropping a handful of treats on the ground at this feet!*
- *Do this randomly in various locations around your home and yard and gradually increase the distance your dog is away from you .*
- *Your dog will think a treat party can happen anytime and anywhere.*
- *Do practice this game throughout your dog’s life, but don’t over use it, **remember to keep it as your emergency recall cue.***

PING PONG RECALLS

This is a fun, motivated recall game. This exercise requires an assistant and is a great way to teach your dog to come to all members of your family.

HOW TO PLAY

Set up:

1. Handler and assistant should have a number of treats and be positioned a short distance apart.

Steps:

2. The handler will hold the puppy or dog and the assistant will say the dog's name in a happy tone of voice and then give the recall cue (Whistle or voice. The handler will release the dog. *If the assistant doesn't know the dog well they will need to be exciting and encouraging to get the dog to come.*

3. As the dog reaches them, the assistant will praise the behavior and give them the treat.

4. The assistant will then turn the dog around and hold it while the handler says the dog's name and gives the cue to come.

5. When the puppy returns to the handler, the handler will give the puppy praise and a treat.

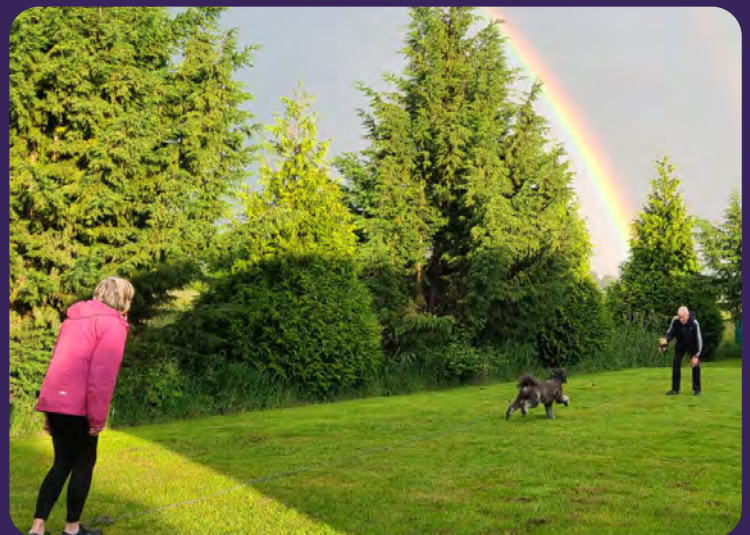
6. Repeat a couple of times.

Tip:

It is not uncommon for the puppy or dog to try to get more treats from the person he is currently with rather than going to the person calling him – *if that happens the person who is holding the puppy should just look away, cross their arms and ignore the puppy.*

Building on the Ping Pong Recall

Add distance and play this game in a variety of settings and with different assistants. This is a great way for the dog to learn to come for all family members.



Learn the Secrets to a **RELIABLE RECALL**

COME When Called

Whistle & Voice



This step-by-step course features game-based, positive training methods. You will see your dog improve every week as each lesson builds new patterns that will have your dog flying back to you.

LEARN MORE



"I took the Come When Called course at the TNT Training Center and loved everything about it.

The online version of the course was such an added bonus. I could watch the videos as often as I wanted and the whole program was really easy to follow.

All the exercises were set up like games so it was super fun to do and I have been recommending it to all my friends.

CARLY & EMBER

Janice Gunn

Top Trainer & Obedience Competitor

TNTKENNELS.COM



Janice Gunn is an internationally known dog trainer, top dog-sport competitor, and in demand obedience seminar presenter.

She belongs to an elite group of trainers who have earned the very prestigious perfect 200 score in competitive obedience. Janice has earned perfect scores at all levels of competition and with 9 different dogs!

Janice is the creator of several successful competition obedience training video series as well comprehensive online courses for pet owners “**Homeschool Foundation Obedience**” and her “**Come When Called Whistle & Voice**”.

Training Videos



Online Courses

