



Quick Reference: Teaching "Come" (Reliable Recall)

Teaching a rock-solid "Come" cue is one of the most important safety skills you can give your dog. It transforms their name or the "Come" cue into a signal that something wonderful is about to happen, ensuring they look to you for guidance and happily return to your side, even when distractions are present.

How to Teach It

- **Step 1: The "Name Game" Foundation:** Start in a quiet, distraction-free room. Say your dog's name in a happy, upbeat tone. The moment they turn their head toward you, mark the behavior (with a click or a cheerful "Yes!") and immediately reward them with a high-value treat.
- **Step 2: Introduce the "Come" Cue:** Once they are consistently turning to your name, start saying "Come!" just before they turn toward you. As soon as they move toward you, mark and reward generously.
- **Step 3: Make it a Game:** Have a family member or friend hold your dog while you walk a few steps away. Cheerfully call "Come!" and when they reach you, throw a "party" with lots of praise and their favorite high-value treats.
 - **Pro-Movement Tip:** If your dog hesitates or gets distracted, turn around and run away from them! Dogs naturally love to chase, so moving quickly in the opposite direction makes coming to you an exciting game.
- **Step 4: Gradually Add Distractions:** Once they have mastered the cue inside, practice in slightly more stimulating environments, such as your backyard or a quiet corner of your living room. Always ensure you are staying within your dog's "comfort boundary"—the distance at which they can still focus on you.
- **Step 5: Practice in Public:** Take your training to a quiet, safe area. If they are too distracted to respond, you are likely too close to the trigger; increase your distance and try again.

Why It Helps

- **Safety:** A reliable "Come" can be lifesaving if you need to get your dog's attention or keep them away from danger quickly in an emergency.
- **Redirects Focus:** It is a powerful, positive tool to pull your dog's attention away from distractions and back to you.
- **Builds the Bond:** Short, positive training sessions reinforce the partnership between you and your dog, making you the most interesting thing in their world.

Pro Tip: Never use your "Come" cue in a scolding tone or to call them for something they dislike (like a bath or nail trim). You want this cue to always predict something awesome!



Need a little extra support with your recall training?

If you are struggling to get your dog's attention or feel like you need personalized help, I am here for you! Reach out to me today to book a session and let's work together to make your walks and outings more peaceful and connected.



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