

WHISTLE RECALL

1. At every meal, as you put his/her food down, give multiple pips on the whistle - always use the same number of pips. This is the only time to use the whistle for the next couple of weeks. Your puppy/dog is learning to associate the sound of the whistle with food.

2. After a couple of weeks, still using the whistle as in step 1, try blowing it when he/she is mooching around the house. So give your pips and when he/she comes to you immediately reward him/her with a really tasty titbit.

3. After a few days, when you are confident that he/she will always come to you around the house, try whistling him/her in the garden, always remembering to reward him/her with a tasty morsel.

4. When he/she is recalling well in the garden go to the park, when it is quiet with few distractions. If you are unsure of his/her reaction, you can put him/her on a long-line.

5. Gradually increase the distractions and distance as his/her reliability improves.

REMEMBER to continue using the whistle at meal time during every step to continue reinforcing his/her behaviour. Only stop when he/she is really reliable.

WHISTLE STOP

Your dog should already know the command for sit or stand. You can now introduce one long pip on the whistle followed by his usual sit or stand command. As a general rule, when

Adding a new command always try to place it before a command / cue that your dog already knows. For example

New cue + old cue = desired response

Whistle Voice & hand signal Command

To sit or stand your dog must stop, so essentially a 'whistle stop' is a whistle sit / stand'.

In general, one long blast is usually best for an emergency command as it combines urgency with a direct command.



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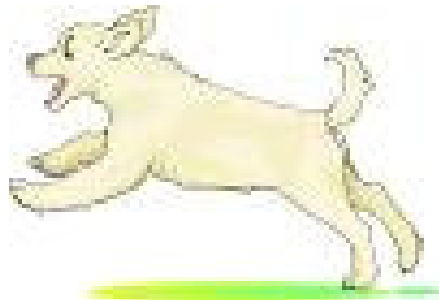
RECALL



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To be able to safely run your dog off lead it is essential to teach him a good, reliable recall. Without a good recall your dog will be reduced to living his/her life on a lead. He/she will be denied play with other dogs, the mental stimulation of exploring new places and the joy of free running and swimming. If you have already taught your puppy that it is good to follow you on and off the lead it will be easier to teach him/her a reliable recall as he/she already knows that being with you is fun.

Practise calling him/her back to you in the house and garden, always remembering to reward him/her with treats (sliced sausages work well), toys and touch. Look for safe public places, such as parks and fields away from roads. When out and about reward him/her whenever he/she moves towards you or even looks at you. By encouraging him/her to check on you e.g. by looking back to make sure you are where he/she left you, you are reinforcing the notion that being with you is safe and rewarding. You can practise recalls alone or with two or more people in a sort of Pinball recall i.e. he/she runs between the people with each one rewarding him/her when he/she reaches them.



Start training when there are no distractions. As his/her recall becomes more reliable you can introduce distractions, such as toys, bikes, footballs and other dogs. Every time you introduce a new distraction make sure that the reward is extra good e.g. a piece of liver rather than a plain dog biscuit. The more that you practise the more reliable his/ her recall will become.

If you have problems getting him/her to come back to you, try using a long-line, whilst an extending lead, such as the Flexi-lead allows your dog a little more freedom, it is not enough to let him/her move any great distance away from you as he/she might do when off the lead. However, a long-line does give him/her more of a sense of freedom.

The line is simply a length of strong rope, about 2– to 3– feet in length which you attach to the collar or a harness, the same as you would a lead. You can buy these long-lines or you can make one yourself. Just ensure that the line is securely attached to the collar or harness so that the dog cannot get loose. It can be safer to attach the line to a harness rather than a collar. There should always be a light tension on the line in order to minimize the chances of the dog running to the end and either pulling you off your feet or risking whiplash injury to him/her or you. Having a constant light tension applied around his/her body is much safer and more comfortable than having it on his/her neck and throat area.

Never attach a long-line to a head collar as this risk and type of injury is much greater. Once you have attached your line you can practise recalling him/her as before, but in the sure knowledge that he/she cannot run away or get into mischief or be hurt in a dog fight or run up and frighten a child.

NOTE: Harnesses can damage the Wheaten coat as the harness can rub and matt the hair.

Another useful recall training tool is a whistle. For example, teaching a whistle recall is a great method if your dog has already learned to ignore you calls of 'come'. This method allows your dog to learn a brand new exercise rather than trying to correct an old one. A plastic whistle is more reliable and louder than whistling yourself. The plastic whistle has a constant tone which means that whoever is walking the dog, the sound of the whistle is the same. Don't choose a 'silent' whistle as you will not be able to hear how hard you are blowing it, or even if the dog can hear it e.g. in windy conditions if the whistle becomes blocked and is not making sound at all. Imagine how unfair it would be to scold your dog for ignoring the whistle when it wasn't even working. The Acme plastic whistle 211 1/2 pitch (the lower the number on the back of the whistle the higher the pitch). These whistles are cheap to buy, are loud and will not rust.