

KINDRED PAWS

ANIMAL TRAINING



Recall Games

Reliable recall or 'come here' is the most important skill you can teach your dog. Recall games help to ensure that coming back to you is always fun and rewarding for your dog (and it's fun for us too!).

Remember to keep your dog on lead (such as a long line), or in a secure area, if you are still developing a reliable recall.

Game 1: Catch me!

While walking with your dog, get their attention and then turn around and move a few steps, encouraging your dog to follow you. Set up for success by starting on leash, but be careful not to tug at your dog. As your dog follows you, say your cue word 'come', and give them a reward of food or a toy.

TIP: Dogs love to play chase, but try not to chase your dog too much in play. Instead, make them chase you!

Game 2: Hide and Seek

Once your dog has an understanding of the word 'come', this game is great for building speed. Go to another room, and call your dog - make sure you have a variety of great rewards for your dog when they find you! To play again, scatter a few small treats on the ground and quickly go hide again, or have a second person stop the dog from following you immediately.

TIP: Start easy and don't hide too well - the whole idea is we want your dog to find you and not get frustrated and give up! You're hiding appropriately if you can call 'come' once and your dog finds you within 5 seconds.

Game 2: Hot Potato

If you have two or more people, hot potato is a great game to get lots of recall reps in! Each person needs some high-value treats and will take turns calling the dog between them at a distance appropriate for your dog. If you have more than two people, change the order in which people call the dog to keep them guessing. Only give a treat if you called 'come'.

TIP: some smart dogs learn to predict a pattern and will run before the cue is given. Make sure to follow the order: cue, behaviour, then reward.