

Many Tears Animal Rescue

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TEACHING YOUR PUPPY RECALL

When you adopt a puppy, their future is really in your hands. That means you are responsible for their life and how they behave.

The most important lesson you could teach your pup is a good recall as without this your pup may not be there to teach anything else. There are lots of ways to teach this but this is the way I teach my pups.

Hide and Seek

Once a puppy has had all its inoculations take it to a safe and secure area that the pup does not know (like a friend's garden). Start to walk and a puppy will naturally follow at your heels as is usually insecure walking at a strange place at that age.

When pups concentration laps - hide (e.g. behind a rock, tree, bush or long grass,). The pup looks up, looks for you and starts to panic a little. Stay hiding, but ensure you can still see the pup and call its name once.

The pup will look for you so call again and when it turns your way call again. When the pup sees you and starts to come towards you back off as fast as you can (without falling over!) whilst calling "COME!" - smiling and encouraging pup to get to you as quickly as he/she can.

When the puppy up catches up with you drop to your knees and praise, praise, praise!! Go over the top with praise, so the word "COME" and all that love and praise go together. Later when 100% reliable you can teach a sit and present at the end of the recall.

You want the recall to be urgent – "COME!" means come as fast as you can - not in your own time having sniffed here and there, chased a rabbit or two, or eaten that nice families picnic! Moving away making the distance further when calling makes the dog move faster to you and therefore makes it more urgent for the dog to get to you also.

Pups get very wise to this game, the panic of losing you the once is usually enough for them to keep a better eye on you in future. If they stray too far away when they look towards you run the other way.

My pups and dogs don't ever think I will always be there on walks for them. Although I often walk 10 at a time from early lessons (whether as pups or new dogs to me) they all check in constantly to be sure they are not lost from my family who they clearly like.

I would never let a dog off in a dangerous area that is not fenced. A good place to start is a friend's garden that the dog has never been to or somewhere similar. There are plenty of ways to train the recall, but if you miss the window of opportunity and wait till the dog is full of confidence and has enjoyed roaming, hunting or wandering the teaching of the recall may take a lot longer.

REMEMBER - Without the recall your dog could be shot by a farmer, run over or lost forever . Please help your dog secure a long and happy life with you.

Sylvia