

## RECALL “COME”

### **\*\*Recall (Come) II\*\***

From now on you will use normal-sized rewards. You can use the same fabulous stuff from *Come I* but in small, training-sized pieces, or whatever you have successfully used in training *Sit* and *Down*. Or a mix.

For this exercise, you'll need either

- a helper, or
- a table or countertop high enough so that your dog can't access it (your dog should smell what's up there but be unable to get to it even if he jumps and reaches).

The best of all possible worlds would be to work on this exercise both ways--better generalization right off the bat.

### ***With a Helper***

1. Load a helper's hands with rewards (food or toy) and let your dog sniff and nibble but not have any. You'll need a helper who can withstand a dog nibbling and harassing her hands.
2. Station yourself six feet away with no rewards on you--nothing in your pockets or hands and no bait pouch.
3. Make your novel sound *once* and then encourage your dog to come. *He will probably ignore you for several minutes.* No matter, keep up your voice prompting as your dog bugs your helper. Be enticing with your voice but don't repeat the cue.
4. Eventually--it might seem an eternity--your dog will give up on your helper and come over to you. No matter how long it has taken and how irritated you are, praise him when he does.
5. When your dog reaches you, hold onto him (grab his collar) and pet and praise him. Immediately, your helper should zoom over to your position and reward your dog. It's okay--good in fact--that your helper, and not you, gives the reward, provided the dog is fed in position: at your location, while you're holding his collar and touching him.
6. Go back to your original positions, let your dog regravitate to your helper's yummy reward-filled hands, and do it again. Keep repeating even if your dog doesn't seem to get better from one time to the next. His bugging the helper will extinguish over time *because it won't work.*

Practice until your dog comes 5 times in a row without hesitation. This may take many, many repetitions over a few sessions. Naps or an overnight between sessions will help.

## RECALL "COME"

At some point, your dog may start coming before you call him. This is fine--reward him!

### ***With a High Surface***

1. Put a pile of tasty treats on a high surface--high enough that your dog can't get at them but not so high that he can't tell they are there.
2. Station yourself 6 feet away with nothing on you--nothing in your pockets or hands and no bait pouch.
3. Make your novel sound *once* and then lay on the charm to get your dog to come. *He will probably ignore you completely for several minutes.* Keep up your prompting (without repeating the cue) no matter how much he ignores you and focuses on the surface you're using
4. Eventually, your dog will give up and come to you. No matter how long it has taken and how irritated you are, praise him as he heads over. Once he gets partway to you, he may regravitate to the food location ("Oh, so you have nothing--I'm heading back to the counter..."). Perfectly fine. Prompt away. Eventually he'll come over for real. His attempt to access the food directly will start to diminish because it's not working.
5. When your dog reaches you, get a hold of him and praise him. Go over with him to the high surface, take a small helping of the reward, go back to your original position, and give it to him there. Be sure to feed for position.
6. Empty your hands and repeat the exercise.

Practice until your dog comes 5 times in a row with no hesitation. This may take many, many repetitions over a few sessions. Naps or an overnight between sessions will help.

At some point, your dog may start coming before you call. This is fine--reward it!

### **\*\*Recall (Come) III\*\***

7. Repeat *Come II* in a new location.
8. Repeat *Come II* with a new reward.
9. Repeat *Come II* in a new location with another new reward.
10. Repeat *Come II* with a much greater distance between you and the dog.

*Do 5 repetitions of each step*

Each new variation will temporarily wobble the behavior. This normal grist for the training mill is known as *proofing* an exercise in order to make it durable in a wider range of situations.

## RECALL “COME”

When your dog reliably does 5 out of 5 repetitions without hesitation for new and interesting rewards and in different places in your house, you're ready to take your recall on out into the real world. I suggest to begin recalling your dog into your house from all doors leading to the outside.

### What Does Your Dog Learn From This?

If you think about it, it's counterintuitive for a dog to obtain something by moving away from it. His entire life history has taught him that the best way to get something is to move toward it. In Come II, this idea is turned on its head. Your dog is going to learn some weird physics: move away to get something. the key message is that not only do you control the rewards on your person, but you also control the rewards out there in the world. If your dog would like to access good stuff out there in the world, the answer is not to ignore you and just try and take it. The answer is obedience.

### “This Can't Possibly Work!” Some Cheerleading for You!

In a perseverance intensive exercise like this one, there is a big risk that you, the trainer, the most important player, will quit. Gratification is completely and utterly delayed in this exercise. You dutifully do it over and over, but your dog doesn't seem to get better. Sometimes he'll have a slightly better repetition or a really good one but then he'll go back to ignoring you when you call. The temptation to give up will be great. Don't give up! It will absolutely work if you keep repping it out.

At first you'll see occasional better repetitions amidst slow, awful ones. Gradually over time, there will be more good repetitions among the ones where he ignores you seemingly forever. Finally, he will come immediately all the time. Part of the reason that trainers persevere with this exercise, aside from their love of the training process, is that they've seen it work many times so they are not training blind. If it's your first time trying something like this, you'll have to train on faith.

Mary Kay  
Petiquette 101  
760-518-5518  
Petiquette101@cox.net