

PUPPY PRE-SCHOOL

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TEACHING YOUR DOG TO COME WHEN CALLED.

Stage 1: HAND TARGETING.

You can teach your dog to regard your hand like a magnet that it is attracted to. Take a piece of food, hold it between your thumb and the palm of your hand. (Picture 1) Hold the hand still, palm upwards out towards the dog. The dog should smell the food, and investigate. (Picture 2) When the dog's nose touches your hand, click, and release the food for the dog to eat. (Picture 3)



The dog should use its tongue to lick the food up. (Picture 4)

If it uses teeth then yell "OOW!" and remove hand and food! Try again.

Repeat 3 times.

Next PRETEND you have food under your thumb. Click for the nose touch, and pass the dog a treat from your other hand/belt bag/pouch etc.



Then ask the dog to come very short distances (neck movement only) to your hand. Next ask him to move from one hand to the other one. Then ask him to take 1 step towards you, two steps etc. Soon you will have a dog running across the room to you, and running across the park to you too! Sometimes, mark the hand target with your clicker and throw the food away for the dog to get. Then get the dog to come back again.

Some points to remember:

ALWAYS praise your puppy when it comes to you.

Start training in a very quiet and familiar area like your home.

Keep puppy on a long line or retractable lead while he is learning to come.

Run in the **opposite direction** to that which your puppy is moving/sniffing. Call your pup's name as you run away. Your pup should chase you. If he doesn't then leap up and down and generally act really exciting! If he gallops after you then tell him that is really good.



When your pup gets close to you, get it to **come right to your hand**, and NOT run past you again. Practice COLLAR GRABS/Gotcha!

As your dog's response improves (ie. Your dog responds at the first call and runs fast back to you) you can go closer to distractions (other dogs, people etc) and practice calling your dog back.

When do you take the lead off? Don't take the lead off until you can bet \$50.00 that your dog will come back when called. It may take many months. You will find at first that your dog is good when no-one is around, and worse when there are distractions. This is normal. With practice it will improve.

Practice in DIFFERENT places. Make yourself more interesting (dog more likely to notice you) by: Taking a soccer ball or toy with you and playing with your dog. Run around with your dog, changing direction a lot (Play tag and get your dog to "tag" your hand) . PLAY the **Piggy-in-the-middle** Game (call dog to run between two or more people). Wave arms around to get your dog's attention.

