



Mutts with Manners

RECALL GAME

Animal Welfare League of SA Inc

Having a dog that comes consistently

1. Spend as much time with your dog as possible. The more time you spend with your dog, the more time the dog will want to spend with you.
2. Don't ever push your dog away or ignore your dog when he comes to you (even when not invited). Acknowledge your dog every time he checks in with you.
3. NEVER call your dog to punish. Dogs quickly learn that it is safer not to come to you.
4. Do not call the dog when you are reasonably sure he is not going to come. You are effectively training your dog to ignore you when you call it.
5. Do not call the dog to start something bad, - eg bath time, time to go to bed, etc.
6. Do not call the dog to stop something good - eating disgusting objects - to us - but not the dog! Playing with doggy friends, etc. In these situations go and get the dog.
7. Call the dog a number of times when at the park or playing off leash, give a treat, praise and send the dog off to play again. If you only call the dog to go home, the dog will stop coming to you.
8. Do not chase the dog if he doesn't come. There is no way you can out-run the dog and he will find this an extremely entertaining and rewarding game.
9. Never play chasey with your dog; it encourages your dog to run away from you.
10. You cannot force your dog to come if he doesn't want to. You must make it worthwhile so he wants to come to you.
11. Always call the dog in a happy voice.



12. Spend time playing the recall game (attached) and ensure that your dog knows what you mean when you call him.

13. If your dog does not have a reliable recall do not let him off leash in uncontrolled situations. Practice the recall game without distractions initially then gradually add distractions.

The Recall Game

Initially, play this game in the backyard or where there are few distractions.

Have two family members armed with favourite treats about 10 feet apart from one another. Person 1 calls the dog from Person 2 while at the same time Person 2 says to to "name". When the dog gets to person 1 they should tuck their finger gently under the dog's collar, praise and give treats. Person 2 then calls the dog while person 1 says go to "name". This should continue for a while but stop before the dog gets tired of it.

Increase the distance that the dog has to run between people and gradually add difficulty (call from out of sight - behind the garage, or in the house).

Always be fun and exciting when calling the dog and have plenty of treats ready as soon as the dog gets to you.

When the dog is happily doing this at home try it at the park or oval. Initially, have a long line on the dog as they may forget all of your careful training at home because of the distractions at the park.

Again, start with short distances and gradually increase. If the dog makes errors or is very distracted decrease the distance and do some more training at home.

Remember this is a game and should be fun - stop playing before the dog gets tired of it.

Besides treats, you can use toys, a ball, pats, tummy rubs, etc that the dog loves.



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