

A long-haired dog, possibly a Weimaraner, is lying on a sandy beach. The dog has light brown and white fur and is looking off to the side. It is wearing a red leash. In the background, there is a dark pier or walkway with a railing, and a person can be seen walking in the distance under a clear blue sky.

Recall Guide

ENSURING SAFETY AND FUN

By Bubba's Dog Training

www.bubbasdogtraining.co.uk

Introduction

Good recall improves quality of life and safety!

A solid recall is one of the most important behaviours your dog can learn. It's not just about convenience – it's about safety, trust, and freedom. Whether you're exploring countryside trails or navigating busy parks, a reliable recall means your dog can enjoy off-lead adventures while you stay in control.

In this guide, you'll learn the foundations of teaching recall, common mistakes to avoid, and some of my favourite exercises to get started.



Why Recall Fails

01

Inconsistent training

02

Lack of motivation

03

Negative associations

04

Overuse of cue

Foundations of a solid recall

Use a Unique Cue
Pick a recall word that is not used in daily life!

High-Value Rewards
Recall is not the time for kibble!

Start at Home
Begin indoors or in the garden with minimal distractions. Say your cue once, reward with a party every time your dog responds.

Use a Long Line Outdoors
A 5-10 metre long line gives your dog the freedom to roam safely while you proof the behaviour in new environments.

Don't use your recall word to call your dog back to tell them off - they won't want to come back next time!

A white dog with brown spots is running on a green lawn. The dog's mouth is open, showing its pink tongue and teeth. The background is a blurred green field.

FUN RECALL GAMES

Recall Games

Round Robin Recall

Stand in a wide circle or spread out across a field. One person calls the dog using their recall cue. When the dog arrives, big praise and high-value reward! Then another person calls from a different direction. Keep the energy up and the rewards generous.

It creates positive repetition, builds speed and enthusiasm, and helps your dog generalise recall from different voices and distances.

Hide and Seek

Ask someone to hold your dog or wait until they're not watching, then sneak off and hide. Call your dog enthusiastically using your recall cue. When they find you, make a big fuss – treats, toys, or even a mini game of tug or fetch

This taps into your dog's natural hunting and scenting instincts. It also teaches them to keep an eye on you, not the other way around!.

Chase Me!

Once your dog is looking at you or approaching, turn and jog or run away while calling them. Most dogs can't resist a good chase! As soon as they catch up, reward with food, a game, or lots of praise.

Dogs love to chase. By running away, you become more interesting than whatever they were focused on.

Mistakes To Avoid



**CALLING WHEN YOU KNOW YOUR DOG
WON'T COME**



REPEATING THE CUE OVER AND OVER



USING A HARSH OR ANGRY TONE



**PUNISHING THE DOG WHEN THEY
RETURN SLOWLY**



**ONLY CALLING WHEN IT'S TIME TO
LEAVE THE FUN**

Need some more help?

Reach out for some expert help to supercharge your recall - there really is no joy like being able to trust your dog off lead and watch them run!

Book a free discovery call

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