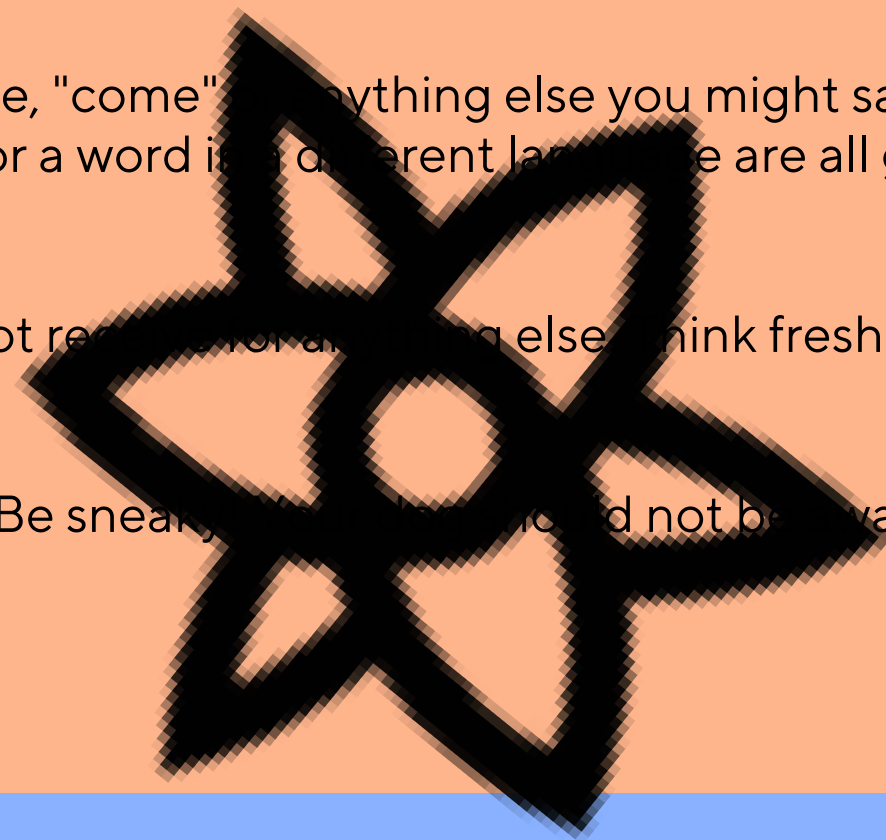


TRAINING A RELIABLE RECALL

1

- Pick a special recall word. This should not be your dog's name, "come" or anything else you might say absentmindedly. Unique words like pickle, snickers, pronto or a word in a different language are all good choices.
- Pick a special recall food. This is something your dog does not really love or anything else. Think fresh chicken, steak or cheese. We want to blow their minds!
- Prepare food at least 1 hour prior to practicing this exercise. Be sneaky, your dog should not be aware you are preparing to call them.



2

- Inside your home when your dog is not paying attention, say your special word one time and follow with clapping, happy talk and your best cheerleader impression.
- When your dog comes to you, surprise him/her with a handful of your special food.
- Repeat a maximum of 3x per day at random times. Do not practice outside of the home yet!

3

- Once your dog comes running enthusiastically at home, pick the quietest outdoor space you can imagine (e.g. your backyard, a tennis court, very quiet park with a long-line). Try your recall there and reward **generously**.
- Use a long line the first few times you practice outside so you can ensure your dog doesn't run off when you call them.
- If your recall is 100% reliable in the quiet environment, try in a slightly more distracting place. Think going from a park with no dogs to a park with one dog. Only try your recall with more distractions if it is very strong in the current environment.
- Things that will make your recall harder include more dogs, people or critters in the environment and how long s/he has been there. The more recently you have arrived, the more difficult it will be for your dog to come back.

RECALL DON'TS

- **Don't** ever scold or punish your dog for coming to you, even if it took a long time
- **Don't** overuse your recall; max 3x per walk!
- **Don't** forget to reward your dog for checking in with you off-leash
- **Don't** stop rewarding each and every time!
- **Don't** only call your dog when you are leaving the park/the fun is ending