



## RECALL (Come)

A fun exercise to teach your dog to come when it's called using pressure, release, a long line and treats!

### You will need:

- Treats
- Treat pouch
- Long line (minimum 30 ft).

### The Practice:

Your dog will progress and improve with each session. You may choose to practice this exercise on they regular 6 foot fixed leash initially.

- Take your dog to an open area with minimal stimuli to set your dog up for success. Place your dog on the long line.
- Release approximately 6ft of the line. Plant your hands still at your belly button and wait for your dog to hit the end of the leash.
- Take a step or two backwards, pairing your movement with your recall word (COME, HERE, etc.).
- Do NOT use your hands to pull the dog toward you, simply move your feet.
- When your dog gives into the pressure of the leash stop moving. Verbally praise them for a doing well.
  - Wait until your dog has reached you before marking with the verbal marker YES and reaching into your treat bag.
- Once you have given your dog the treat give them a release command to leave your side (OKAY, FREE, RELEASE).
- Repeat the above steps a few times using the same length of leash.
  - Allow 6 ft. Dog hits end of leash – COME as you are backing up.
  - Dog releases pressure by walking toward you.
  - Praise them. Wait until they reach you before marking with YES and treating.
  - Before they turn to leave you, verbally release them with your release word.
  - Once you have given your dog the treat give them a release command to leave your side (OKAY, FREE, RELEASE).
- Once you and your dog are grasping the concept of the exercise, repeat the above steps, allowing more than 6 feet out from your long line.
- Periodically ask your dog to COME using the same steps as listed above, before they hit the end of the leash – this way they are not associating hitting the end of the leash as the time to listen.
- Remember that your dog will have a capacity for learning new things (including new lengths of leash) at a gradual speed. Do not go into this exercise expecting to move from 6ft to 30ft, or better yet 6ft to off leash, in the first exercise. Teaching and learning takes time, effort, and patience.

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## Georgian Triangle Humane Society

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- Once your dog has shown great responsiveness to your recall in a controlled environment, start challenging their attention by bringing them to a more stimulating environment with distractions.
- Begin to ween your dog down in treats by providing intermittent treats. Start with every other treat in one session, to every second, and so on – mix it, and the treats up so that your dog does not become privy to your treating schedule!
- When your dog proves to have a solid recall without your needing to apply leash pressure, practice this exercise in a fenced in area without the leash! Your next step is your choice!
- *Something you may run into; you provide your dog with more leash, they respond to your RECALL but only come half way before starting in another direction. ‘Reel’ the SLACK of the leash in as your dog comes toward you – this DOES NOT mean that you are placing pressure on the leash by pulling your dog to you. You are simply removing the slack from the leash when your dog approaches you – this way, if your dog comes 10 ft toward you, and turns in another direction, you are now working with a 20ft leash rather than 30ft again.*
- **As your dog learns the concept of pressure and release (using the leash) you can work to implementing a small verbal correction when they turn to another direction mid-recall. For example; FLUFFY COME – dog comes, then turns, (verbal correction in regular tone of voice) Uh-Uh. Give your dog a chance to respond to the verbal correction. Dog doesn’t respond to verbal correction, back up – providing pressure on the leash, COME (continue until the dog reaches you).**
- Other things that will strengthen your dog’s recall;
  - Implementing the ‘Nothing in life is Free’ philosophy
  - Playing recall games with multiple people in the house and in the back yard
  - NEVER pairing your recall with something that your dog can perceive as negative.

### **Support:**

Our Behaviour Support Team can help to provide resources and tips if you experience concerns in the home environment. With your adoption the GTHS will provide an over the phone consultation in order to provide you with tips and resources to set your new dog up for success. In all cases of dog adoptions, the GTHS recommends hiring a professional dog training or behavioural consultant to ensure your relationship with your new dog starts off on the right paw! A list of local trainers is enclosed in your adoption package.

Our Behaviour Support Team can be reached at [behaviour@gths.ca](mailto:behaviour@gths.ca)

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