

Achieving Perfect Recalls

1. If you have problems in calling your dog back they will almost certainly lack in trust and confidence, combined with dominant tendencies.
2. Never grab at your dog as this action will result in the above.
3. If you have an older dog that refuses to come back, consider changing the command you use. Some dogs get sick of hearing their name.
4. Timing is all important in calling your dog back e.g., teach the command "That'll Do" when your dog is in the process of coming back to you. Not when it is ignoring you.
5. If your dog persistently refuses to come back:
 - Change the command
 - Crouch down but avoid grabbing
 - Use food to bait it
6. If you never let your dog off the lead this type of dog has the potential to wreak havoc when eventually off lead or if it escapes.
7. If you work long hours or your dog is deprived of mental stimulation it may not listen to you.
8. Kneeling or crouching down whilst calling your dog has the effect of causing the dog to become curious and less threatened.
9. Only call your dog when you have eye contact from it. Clapping will enable you to get eye contact.
10. Although we communicate through voice dogs observe body language first. Certain body turns can convey a message to your dog that it is Ok to chase or move towards someone or something.
11. If your dog comes back after a considerable time you don't have to praise it but you should certainly never punish it.
12. All dogs have the "chase instinct" so running in the opposite direction will encourage it to come to you.
13. The act of running after your dog will cause it to run away unless you are able to keep up with it.

14. Games such as hide and seek encourage excellent recalls.
15. Calling your dog from person to person also can be great fun and lead to improved recalls.
16. Making use of a long line can sometimes be helpful but do not abuse this line.
17. Apply the pressure on/off technique as advised in the Practical Shepherding DVD
18. If your dog looks another person, dog or object it is highly likely that it will run to them.

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