



COME

Level 1

Goal: The dog to come when called and sit in front of us, no matter where we are, what they are doing and what else is going on. This behavior requires constant reinforcement as we naturally tend to call the dog when we need to do something unpleasant (putting the leash on, crating the dog, end of play time, trimming nails, etc.).

Material: clicker, treats, lead rope, tug rope, ball or other toys

TRAINING PLAN		
1.	Getting started	In a location well known to the dog and where there are very little distractions, show the dog a treat, then briskly walk or run backwards, away from the dog, enticing them to run towards you. As the dog runs to you, click and treat. You can also simply wait for your dog to walk in your direction, click & treat.
2.	Adding "Sit"	Repeat step 1 but when the dog gets to you, ask for a sit before rewarding. You can lure the dog into a sit a few times at first. Stay at this step until the dog automatically sits in front of you when called (without you having to say the word "sit"). At this point, STOP showing the dog the treat to initiate the movement. We don't want the dog to only come to you when you have a treat in hand. the treat should come out once the dog is sitting in front of you.
3.	Adding the cue	Repeat the steps above and as soon as you notice your dog running in your direction, say the word "come". Repeat this step 50-100 times to create a strong association between the cue and the behavior.
4.	Changing your position	Call the dog when you're in different positions. Try sitting on a chair or on the floor, lying on the couch, on the floor or the bed, etc.
5.	Building distance	Gradually call the dog from further and further away. You can also start calling the dog from one room to the other and call when you're out of sight. Make sure that there is a very high chance that the dog will come when you call him/her. In case of doubt and you need the dog to come, just go get them.
6.	Building distractions	Gradually increasing the level of distractions. If he or she doesn't respond lower the criteria the next time and try again (move closer to the dog, use higher value treats, reduce the level of distractions, etc.). Progress until the dog responds while in the presence of the highest level of distractions.
7.	Generalization	Change your location. Work with your dog in different places, different rooms, in the yard, in the park, etc. Ask other handlers to work with the dog. When changes environments, keep the level of distractions low at first, then gradually build it up until the dog is responsive in most situations when out in public.
8.	Fluency	Gradually build up the level of difficulty until you can successfully get your dog to come in all sorts of places with lots going on and start using this cue in everyday life, whenever you need to get the dog to come. Use real-life rewards as often as possible. Ask the dog to "Come", then throw a ball, play tug, etc.

CONGRATULATIONS! If you've come this far, you have taught the dog a solid response to the word "Come".