

Really Reliable Recall

Three key ingredients:

1. Management: Plan ahead for success.
 - a. Exercise
 - i. Mental
 - ii. Physical
 - b. Off Leash opportunities – find a fenced park or neighbor's yard.
2. Relationship: Develop a bond based on trust and cooperation.
 - a. Hand feed all meals for 2 weeks
 - b. Reinforce ALL check-ins
 - c. BA² = Become aware and be available
 - d. Fine dining vs. fast food
 - e. Leadership vs. Total Freedom/Dictatorship
3. Training: The easy part!
 - a. Practice is necessary for success
 - b. Ask questions if you are unsure.
 - c. Set up successful sessions NOT tests.

The Rules:

1. Reinforce ALL check-ins.
2. Don't call for anything the dog perceives as yucky.
3. Don't call if YOU don't think your dog will come.

Games:

1. Name game – name recognition to conditioned response
2. Hide n Seek – activates brain, uses energy, fun, huge payoffs
3. Puppy in the middle – fun with multiple people; can use different rooms – hide n seek twist
4. Retrieve

Reasons for limited success:

1. Repeat signal/command
 - a. Find a command that is used little in your world.
 - b. Use ONCE only
2. Don't practice
 - a. You can work your dog several times during a day.
 - b. Keep sessions BRIEF.
 - c. Plan ahead.
 - d. Be sure you are clear on how the exercise is to be taught.
3. low level treat/reward
 - a. Work on identifying ALL the things that your dog will take as a reward.
 - b. Use the HIGHER level rewards for teaching this recall.

If at any time the success of your recall training program diminishes check these three things!