

Come When Called

Things you need:

1. **Patience** If you've unfortunately already taught your pup how NOT to come when called, you're gonna need this! This is a behavior that most properly socialized puppies have an innate desire to perform. Most puppies come when called naturally. We humans tend to "unteach" this behavior.
2. **Consistency** Never, ever call your dog without a firm grip on the reality of the situation you are in. What is the likelihood your pup is going to come to you? Does she even know what the word means? Learn to hold your tongue.
3. **Persistence** Teaching it is easy if you practice and follow a few simple rules. Unteaching a dog that has learned to ignore this command - not so easy. This is one command where frequent, daily practice is necessary if you want your pet to be trustworthy off leash someday.
4. **Knowledge**

THE RULES

Don't use your pup's name then the word "no" or call your pup then punish him.

Never call your pup to do "bad" things to him (nail trim, bath, playtime is over, etc).

If you didn't hold your tongue, don't take out your anger on your pup when he finally DOES come to you

If you are positive your pup will turn and come to you the first time you call even if he is in hot pursuit of a squirrely, then - and ONLY then - is your pup allowed off leash in open areas.

Call your pup to you frequently through the day. Reward, let go.

Always run away, not toward, your dog if he is loose and not coming to you. Act ridiculous.

Your reward should be better than the distraction. Vary the reward. Toys, walk, car ride, treats, etc.

Start out in situations of minimal distraction. Loose leash work is very important.

Pup's name, kiss/kiss/kiss, Gooooood, treat.

Name, Gooooood, back up, "Come", treat

5. **Goals** A furry friend who can safely romp with you off-leash some day