

Emergency Recall



The emergency recall is a powerful cue to be used only in an emergency.

WEEK ONE

1. Choose the whistle that you will condition.
2. Choose a highly delectable Special SUPER Treat that you dog will get **only** when this whistle is blown.
3. For the duration of this first week, in the house only, when you are close to your dog, simply blow the whistle and immediately give your dog *three (3)* of these Special SUPER Treats, one after the other. Remember that, at this point, your dog does not have to do any particular behaviour to get this treat. You are simply teaching your dog to associate the sound of the whistle with the Special SUPER Treats.
"The whistle makes the SUPER treat happen."
4. Practice Step 3, five to ten times per day, variably and unpredictably throughout the course of the day. If the SUPER treat has a high fat content, you may want to limit it to five times per day. If in doubt about any kind of food or treat, consult with your veterinarian.
5. On day seven, it's time to test the whistle: go into another room without your dog noticing, but taking the SUPER treats and the whistle with you. Blow the whistle and watch how quickly your dog flies to you, and reward with three Special SUPER Treats!
6. If Step 5 didn't work, call me!

WEEK TWO

7. If Step 5 worked, take another week and practice Step 3 outdoors, either in the backyard when your dog is right next to you, or on walks while your dog is on leash, three to five times a day. At the end of this second week, test again per Step 5, but outdoors in a fenced area.
8. If the outdoor test in Step 7 didn't work, call me!

WEEK THREE AND FOUR

9. If Step 7 worked, start weaning the number of whistles over the following two weeks from 3-5/day to 1/day.

FOR THE REST OF YOUR DOG'S LIFE

10. From week five and onwards, use the whistle no more than one, two or maximum three times per week. That is your lifetime maintenance protocol.
11. As your dog grows to love the whistle, you may add other special SUPER treats, to make running to you when the whistle blows even more exciting, but the rewards **MUST** be **UNIQUE** to the whistle and **REALLY SUPER-HIGH VALUE** to your dog, better than running after that rabbit!!
12. If you find yourself having to use the whistle "for real" and you do not have any SUPER Treats with you, give your dog everything else that you have with you, and then spend a few days at home re-conditioning the whistle.

IMPORTANT RULES

- **DURING TRAINING:**
You are only creating a positive association between the whistle your dog hears and the wonderful Special SUPER Treats that he is getting. Do not ask your dog for any other particular behaviour before you give him the treats. Simply blow the whistle and give him the treats. **NO TALKING!**

FOR THE REST OF YOUR DOG'S LIFE:

- *Be careful not to overuse the whistle.* This cue is only to be used no more than a few times a week (maximum) and only in emergencies or in training to maintain the effect, if there are no emergencies.
- **DO ABSOLUTELY NOT** use the whistle to call your dog for something he does not like, like calling him into the house when he would rather be outside in the yard. If you do, you will "poison" the whistle and it will lose its effect. Use your regular recall and reward with enough treats, and most of the time perhaps also with the opportunity to go out again, in order to keep your dog happy about coming to you from the yard. Ask your instructor for details if you are having trouble, but please do not use the whistle for this purpose.
- Your dog is never going to hear the whistle unless it is followed by three Special SUPER Treats.
- Your dog will never receive any of the Special SUPER Treats unless you first blow the whistle. ■