Emergency Recall

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

WEEK ONE

1. Get a whistle and choose a highly delectable Special SUPER Treat that you dog will get **only** when this whistle is blown. This has to be a VERY special food. I like to use canned sardines in water for my dogs.
2. 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."
3. Practice Step 2, <u>five to ten times per day</u>, 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. IMPORTANT: Do NOT call your dog, only blow whistle and feed!
4. On day seven, you will FOR THE FIRST TIME actually call your dog with 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!
   If Step 4 didn't work, call me!

WEEK TWO

5. If Step 4 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, <u>three to five times a day</u>. IMPORTANT: Do NOT call your dog, only blow the whistle and feed!
6. At the end of this second week, test again per Step 5, but outdoors in a fenced area.
   If the outdoor test in Step 6 didn't work, call me!

WEEKS THREE AND FOUR

7. If Step 6 worked, you go on to weaning the number of whistles over the following two weeks from 3-5/day to 1/day. IMPORTANT: Do NOT call your dog's name, just blow the whistle and feed!

FOR THE REST OF YOUR DOG'S LIFE

8. From week five and onwards, call your dog with the whistle no more than _<u>once, twice or maximum three times per week</u>_. That is your lifetime maintenance protocol.
9. 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!!
10. 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 creating a positive association between the whistle 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 Super Treats. Simply blow the whistle and give him the Super Treats. NO TALKING!

  FOR THE REST OF YOUR DOG'S LIFE:
- _Be careful not to overuse the whistle_. This whistle is to be used no more than a few times a week (maximum) and only in emergencies or in training to maintain the protocol, 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 quickly "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. ∎