

## Train Your Dog To Come When Called

# CHECKLIST

Training your dog to come when called is THE most important command for your dog to learn. This checklist is designed for you to keep handy and bring with you when you are training your dog. We also recommend putting it somewhere the whole family can see and use it.

- Set your dog up for success** - When you first start training your dog to come when called, set him up to come to you by doing a restrained recall.
- Restrained recall** - With your dog on leash, have a helper hold the leash while you get your dog excited. Once your dog is excited, run away. Once you are 20 feet away, turn and face your dog. Your dog should be straining on the leash trying to get to you. Say your dog's name, the helper releases the leash, and as your dog is running towards you, say "COME!"
- Hold your dog's collar** - When your dog gets to you, reach down and hold your dog's collar. You want to train your dog to come to you. You don't want your dog to run past you or play keep away. Once you have your dog's collar, reward your dog.
- Reward** - Use a high value reward once your dog comes to you. This is an extremely important command and you want your dog to complete it. The reward could be food or a toy.
- Unintentional or intentional punishment** - Dogs avoid coming when called because they quickly learn going to their owners results in being put back on leash. If your dog was loose running around having fun, then runs back to you and is put on leash, he will associate the end of his freedom and fun with you.
- Let your dog have controlled freedom** - Any freedom your dog is allowed has to be done safely. With a long leash (available at any pet store) your dog can experience some controlled freedom. If your dog starts to roam too far away, you can use the leash to prevent him from taking off. The controlled freedom will help your dog with his recall command.

- ❑ **Distractions** - The biggest problem you'll have with your dog's recall are distractions. **Your dog HAS to learn to follow through with the command.** With a long line attached to your dog, you can use it to guide your dog back to you every time you say "COME!"
  
  - ❑ **Use a long line** - The long line (20 to 30 foot leash) is an extremely important tool for teaching your dog to come when called. When your dog is distracted you can call your dog's name and then the command "COME!" If your dog is distracted and does not respond to the command, use the long line to get your dog to follow through.
- 

### **About Eric "The Amazing Dog Training Man" Letendre**

Eric has been working with and training dogs since 1988. He started his career working K9 security for seven years in Hartford, CT. In 1995, he founded American Canine in Westport, MA. Since then he has gone on to develop dog training courses online that are used world-wide and authored four books on training and behavior. Eric has helped train thousands of dogs around the Southcoast and Rhode Island. Currently Eric offers private, in-home dog training lessons.

You can get Eric's ebook, "101 Ways To Improve Your Dog's Behavior" FREE at [EricLetendre.com](http://EricLetendre.com). You can also reach Eric at 774-319-6351.