



Come When Called

WHAT IS IT?

“Come” is a command we use to ask our dogs to come away from what they are doing and find us. You can use the words “Come” or “Here” for this command.

WHEN AND HOW TO USE “COME”

- * We unintentionally teach our dogs to avoid coming to us by only calling them when they are in trouble, or it is time to come away from their fun. Our goal is to teach them that “Coming when Called” is simply a time to check-in with you, not a negative event.
 - * Dogs live very much in the moment! This means we should never get upset with our pups for coming to us, even if they have been doing something we do not like (e.g. digging, chewing on furniture, etc.)
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HOW TO TEACH “COME”

Step 1

Start with your dog on their regular 6-foot leash in areas of low distraction. As they become better at this command, you can make it more challenging by practicing in areas with greater distractions and using a 15–20-foot leash.

Step 2

Say your dog’s name and then give them the command—it is important to use your dog’s name and the command only once so that they do not learn to tune us out, and instead listen to us on the first try (e.g. “Puppy, come”).

Step 3

If your dog is still distracted, avoid repeating their name and the command, and instead prompt them to come to you by doing something else to get their attention (silly noises, patting the ground, clapping your hands, etc.). You can also encourage them to come to you by getting low to the ground or backing up and having them chase you.

Step 4

Mark the moment with a verbal “Yes” as soon as they turn and begin coming towards you. Reward your pup when they make it all the way back to you.