



9 Rules for a Perfect Recall

1. **When your dog comes back to you** - no matter what he's been doing or how long it took, make sure he knows it's the best thing he's ever done. (You may need to count to 10!) The day you tell him off for coming back is the day your recall will start to crumble.
2. **Always reward every recall** – using high value food, a favourite toy, a tug game, allow him to go sniff, huge fuss, enthusiasm.
3. **Only call your dog when you have at least a 90% chance of him coming.** Otherwise you are teaching him to ignore you. Close the distance and wait for the right moment.
4. **Call in an exciting voice.** Your voice isn't exciting? Then why should your pooch come?
5. **Start indoors**, then increase difficulty in small increments - different room, corridor, garden, enclosed area. Each time you move to a new place, go back to a very short distance recall.
6. When each stage is perfect, **start adding distractions.** This stage is vital, takes the longest - and requires LOTS of work.
7. Nine times out of ten, call your dog, reward him - **then LET HIM GO again.**
8. When you're approaching a known run-off place, **get your dog's attention beforehand** and engage him in an exciting game until you've passed the danger zone.
9. **Do lots of mini-recalls everywhere** - whenever you notice your dog checking in with you, take the opportunity to reinforce his coming to you and responding to his name.

KEY POINT:

Both you and your dog should be having fun!

And a bonus number 10. If you're struggling, check out our website for courses to help. We've got in-person Perfect Pet courses in several venues around North Down and Ards, or our online courses www.downdog.co.uk