



RELIABLE RECALL GAMES

1. Call once: Start indoors. Leave the lead on. Call his name ONCE (light, happy voice). If he comes, praise really well/treat. Then move away and repeat. Do 10 times each session three times a day. If he doesn't come, walk to him, pick up the lead, walk back 6 paces, fuss (no treat) then go back to where he was, let go and try again.

2. To and Fro: two people sit or crouch down at either end of your hall or narrow room about 6 feet apart. In turn, call your dog by name (light, happy voice), give a huge fuss/treat, then turn the dog to face the other person who then calls him. Repeat 10 times 3 times a day, gradually increasing the distance between you.

3. Chase me: (Indoors and garden) Push the puppy away from you using your hands against his chest then run away, let him chase you then have a ball when he gets there. Sometimes get someone to hold him then release him to chase you. Sometimes stop and stand still while he runs to you. Have a great play reward session each time. Have fun!

4. Hide and seek: (indoors) Kneel on the floor and hide your face in your hands. Make silly noises to encourage your puppy to find your face. Fuss and play when he succeeds. Make it harder by crouching tighter so it is harder for the puppy to find a way to your face. Be silly and enjoy the game! You can also play "normal" hide and seek games around the house and garden.

5. Sit at the side: a) Encourage your dog to your side (lure if necessary) and ask for sit. Praise well, fuss and treat. b) Step backwards and encourage your dog to turn and follow at your side (lure if necessary). Treat each step and walk in a circle. Finish by turning to stand beside your dog, fuss and treat. Play a game before repeating this exercise. Keep it fun!

Note: this game will also help with walking nicely on lead!

6. Hand touch: Hold your hand out flat at your side a few inches in front of your dog (rub your palm with a treat to help if you need). As soon as he touches it, fuss and treat/play. Move one pace away and repeat with the opposite hand. Gradually increase the distance your dog has to move and vary the speed of your movement – make it fun! Try in different directions/heights. Start indoors then take the game out into the garden and even on walks/when out and about.

7. Come and get it: play this game at home or in the garden off lead; use a long line for safety if out and about. Walk around randomly. Call your dog (excited, happy voice) and when he arrives you must fuss, play, treat: have a ball! Then let your dog off to do his own thing again. Repeat. Mix it up with the Hand Touch game, the Sit at the Side game, the Chase Me game and even the Hide and Seek game. Have FUN!

8. Reliable recalls: To prepare your dog to recall reliably off leash, practice all of the earlier exercises outside on the beach, in the park or wherever, but this time on a long leash (NOT flexi-lead) until "coming" when called becomes his **habit**.

Keep practising until he comes first time, EVERY time. And, make sure that once he's with you, he's happy to stay focused on you until you give him the okay to do his own thing again by being FUN!

Start when there are no, or distant, distractions, then GRADUALLY graduate to more/closer distractions such as new scents, people, and other dogs. This may take a little longer than you first thought, but by being consistent, careful, and always expecting him to come when you call, you'll have a dog who understands what you really want – and your dog-owning friends will be very jealous!