



We continually update our skills and knowledge so that we stay current with the best practices that can help you and your dog.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

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Issue 25

Living with Dogs: The 5 Rules of Recall

In a perfect world, dogs would come every time we call. They would reason — with the human logic we so often ascribe them — that obedience is in their long-term interest. They would respect our parental authority or respond out of sheer devotion.

Well, dogs may be family members who love us dearly, but they are not people. Dogs prioritise doggie things, which means that other dogs, good sniffs, and off-leash fun win almost every contest. It isn't personal — your dog is just being a dog. If you want a bullet-proof recall for when it truly counts, you must train it, patiently and consistently. Here's what to remember.

1. *Never call your dog for anything unpleasant.* Things like nail clipping, bathing, or having his leash clipped on to go home from the park. In short, anything that might give him pause the next time you call him.



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Dog quotes

“Properly trained, a man can be dog’s best friend.”
– Corey Ford

cont.

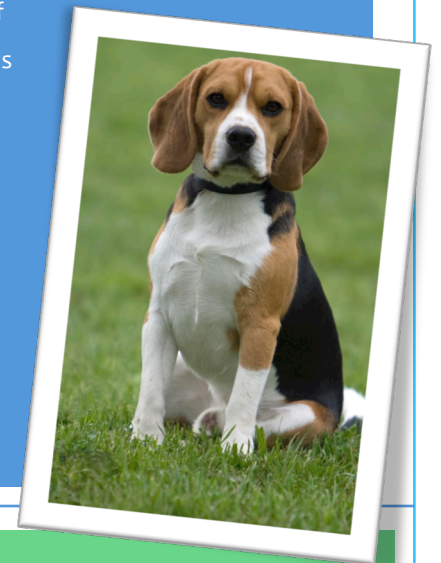
.... The 5 rules of recall

2. *Never call your dog if you are not sure he will come.* All recalls should be successful recalls. Work at your dog's level: If he has a kindergarten-level recall, don't give him a university assignment like being called away from a cat in a tree.
3. *If you call your dog and he doesn't come, you must make it happen.* Run over to him, get his attention, and back up so he follows you.
4. *Never repeat the command.* Resist the urge to call over and over and over. It only teaches your dog to tune out the command. Call once and, if necessary, use rule 3. Make the recall happen.
5. *Use fabulous rewards to get fabulous recalls.* If you want your dog to stop whatever interesting doggie thing he is doing and come running to you, make it worth his while. Use extra yummy treats — no dry kibble here! — or a well-thrown ball, if that is your dog's fancy.



Dog In the Spotlight: The Beagle

This dapper little hunting hound traces her general ancestry back to ancient Greece, but the breed as we know it today originated in Britain in the 1830s. The Beagle possesses one of the best-developed senses of smell of any dog — she can track down a mouse in a one-acre field in less than a minute. Even-tempered, gentle, friendly, and quick to alert on doorbells and strangers, the Beagle makes an excellent family dog. Bred for lengthy chases, her single-mindedness and disdain for non-hunting tasks can make training a challenge, but given the right job, the Beagle excels. In fact, in the U.S., the Department of Agriculture deploys a team of Beagles (the Beagle Brigade) to locate banned food hidden among legal ones.



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