

**Happy Tails Dog Training**  
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**Detailed Write Up on the Emergency Recall**

**Recall-** The word recall simply means that the dog stops what they are doing and comes when they are called. This is a lifesaving skill that every dog MUST master!!

\*\*In my opinion, if you are going to pick just a couple of things to teach your dog, recalls and walking on a loose leash are the most important!!

**Emergency Recall-** By definition it is different from the regular recall because it is used for emergencies!!

I work the "Come" as my regular recall word. Dog's name (gets the dog's attention) and then COME!! Big rewards and praise happen every time I call COME! I make sure that I have a plan B if the dog should decide not to come!! What will I do?? If I have no way of reinforcing a failure to COME, then I don't say COME, PERIOD!!!!!! That is very important.

Every time you say COME and allow the dog to not respond, you are teaching the dog to NOT COME!!! PLEASE, I beg of you not to do this!!!!

*Remember, practice does NOT make perfect, PERFECT PRACTICE makes Perfect!!*

**Now, let's talk about the EMERGENCY Recall!!**

- Before starting the EMERGENCY Recall, be sure you have three weeks of steady time to commit to this training.
- Emergency Recalls must be maintained once a month for the rest of your dog's life.
- The Emergency Recall is an insurance plan for your dog, think of your once a month review session as making your payment so that the insurance plan is there when you need it!!
- If you don't do it and find you need it, it's too late!!!
- You must choose a unique sound or series of words that you will use for the Emergency Recall. Please don't use COME.
- I use Puppypuppypuppypuppy in a high-pitched voice! You need something that you feel comfortable with, something you will remember, something that carries and something that everyone in your house can do! It needs to be something you would never use in regular conversation.
- You will need a treat that you use only for Emergency Recalls. It needs to be fabulous!! I use the stinky wet cat food or Little Ceaser's wet food because they are both small enough to slip into my pocket un-noticed and my dogs go crazy over them because they NEVER get them except for when I am working on Emergency Recalls.
- You will need a long line of some sort. You can buy a cotton long line or just make one. Any hardware store has rope (cotton is best) and the snaps like the ones on your leash. Your long line should be the right size for your dog. Length needs to be about 10 to 20 feet.
- If you have a yard, put the puppy on the long line and allow them to run around with the long line without you touching it.
- We want them to get accustomed to dragging the long line.

- Do this for several days. If you have a dog that is sensitive to dragging a line, it may take longer for them to get comfortable dragging the line. I would have that dog dragging a shorter line in the house to help with that problem.
- Once the line has become no big deal, let your dog out with the line dragging behind them, slip the food into your pocket without them seeing you do it.
- Walk up to the dog and step on the line and use your Emergency Recall word or sound, reel the dog into you as you pull out the amazing treat from your pocket. Feed the dog close to you and praise lavishly. Remember to use this opportunity to grab the collar too!!
- Now say OK or Free and ignore the dog.
- The dog will not want to ignore you, but that's ok. Just pet them and love on them, but no more Emergency Recalls for now.
- Later that day, set that same situation up again. Remember only to do one.
- Now, for a solid week, you must do this same thing twice a day. Vary up when you do it. Remember that dogs are easily pattern trained and life is not so we want them to respond regardless!
- Then once a day for another week while remembering to vary when you do it. Sometimes do it at lunchtime if you can.
- For week three, you need to pick three out of the five days to practice it. Vary the times.
- Now you are ready for maintenance. For the rest of your dog's life you must practice this once a month! Remember it is like paying your insurance premium!!
- Take it on the road!! If you have a fenced in area some place away from home, do it there!!!
- If you are in an area without a fence, just allow the dog to get interested in something else and have the treat in your pocket, make the sound and reel them in and feed and praise.
- ***IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO TAKE THIS ON THE ROAD IF YOU ARE GOING TO GET THE DESIRED RESPONSE AWAY FROM HOME!!!!***
- I almost always do my maintenance away from home because it is more realistic!

***Good luck with the Emergency Recall! It is a lot of work, but it is SO worth it!! It may very well save your dog's life someday!!***