

THE OBEDIENT DOG

The Recall

Teaching your Puppy about its Name
One of the most important exercises to teach is 'Response to Name' this is the foundation to recall training.

It is important that your puppy learns what your expectation is when you call its name, and that it also has a positive association to hearing it. Your puppy's name is just another instruction such as stay, heel etc. My expectation, when I say my puppy's name, is that it turns and looks at me.

Some breeders may have started to call the puppies as a group and made an association to coming to a particular word. I use 'Pup-Pup' with my puppies. If you have a puppy that is already responding to a cue like this, then you can use this to start with.

This process is called 'New Cue, Old Cue'. You say the new cue (which will be your puppy's name) followed by the old cue (Breeder's Cue). The puppy will respond to the old cue at first, and then begin to associate the new cue with it and respond to that on its own.

HANDY HINTS!

Your puppy's name is probably the most important cue of all, yet it gets very little training and reward history! It is reward and reinforcement that drives a dog to perform a behaviour, so make sure this one gets lots of repetition and practise.

TOOLS



What do I need?
Some tasty treats

Response to Name

STEP 1

Start by allowing your puppy to become a little distracted.

STEP 2

Call your puppy by its name, followed by the breeder's cue.

STEP 3

Encourage the puppy towards you.

STEP 4

Give your puppy lots of praise and affection and sometimes a treat.

STEP 5

After several repetitions, you can start to fade out the breeder's cue and just use your puppy's name.

HANDY HINTS!

Make sure your puppy has a positive association to hearing its name. That means never associating the name with a negative or if you are trying to stop an inappropriate behaviour. For example "Max No", "Max Off", or "Max Leave".

Response to name will support you in the future as it creates focus, attention, listening and coming when called. Remember to vary your rewards.