

Training Tip: Why the emergency recall is the first thing to teach a newly adopted dog:

by Donna Rogers k-9 capers

Has your dog ever broken free from the leash and run after a car, dog, or other enticing object? Did you yell “come!” only for your dog to ignore your call? If so, the emergency recall could be extremely beneficial.

Dogs that break free are usually in a highly distracted or in predator mode.

The emergency recall is something that every dog can and should learn. It is especially essential for our free-willed breeds. Unexpected situations can happen and ensuring your dog comes immediately can possibly prevent a horrible and potentially fatal situation.

Not only is the emergency recall a great skill to learn, it is incredibly easy to teach. Just follow these simple steps:

1.) Start by making certain the dog you adopted is OK with collar grabs. We start by gently grabbing the collar and saying “Gotcha!” while popping a treat in the dogs’ mouth. This is to ensure the dog associates being grabbed as a good thing and also helps ensure not to make running away a game.

Should a dog slip his collar or run a way from you:

- 1.) Make a novel sound - like a scream! YES! VERY LOUDLY!
- 2.) When the dog turns to look at you, prompt them to turn by RUNNING in the opposite direction.
- 3.) Next DROP to the ground like you have found what they were looking for!

This should entice your dog to run to you and you can grab the collar and say “GOTCHA!”

Visit our website for a full emergency recall demo video:

<http://www.k9caperstraining.com/training-tips.html>

For a normal recall try the following:

1.) First, you will need to come up with a command for your recall. Make sure it is something you can easily remember, yet isn’t likely to be used in every day conversation. We use the word “pronto”. Make sure you have plenty of high value treats in your hand – something your dog doesn’t get in usual training sessions. You want this treat to be extremely special! Perhaps some cooked chicken or lean hamburger meat.

2.) Start off in an easy location (e.g. your house) and stand just a few feet away from your dog. Say the command, “pronto!”, in a high-pitched voice with happy, excited posture to entice your dog to come to you.

3.) When your dog makes it to you, reward him/her with treats for 20-30 seconds. You want it to feel like your dog hit the jackpot! After you’ve finished with the treats, let your dog go back to whatever he/she was doing.

