

717-476-2449 [www.myk9buddy.net](http://www.myk9buddy.net)

COMING WHEN CALLED

One of the most valuable things that you can teach your dog is to come when called. It’s well worth the time you spend on teaching this skill, as your dog will have more freedom if they can reliably come to you when off leash.

1. Find several things that your dog absolutely adores. This can be food (whatever treat your dog really loves), toys (tugs, squeakies) or personal play (belly rubs, petting, chase games).
2. Start with a food reward. Say your dog’s name then give the treat. Repeat this 10 times in a row as many times a day as possible.
3. After three days of rewarding their name, wait until your dog is distracted while they are in the same room and say their name. Your dog should turn their head and run to you to see if you have the wonderful treat. As soon as they start to move toward you, start the party. It should be EXTREMELY exciting to come to you. Use one or more of the above rewards when they get to you.
4. Practice, practice, practice until they come every time in the house.
5. When they’re performing perfectly in the house, move outside. Put a long (20 foot) leash on your dog, let it drag and call before they get distracted then start the party when they come.
6. If they don’t turn to you, walk down the leash until you are about 6 feet away, then call and reward. If they still don’t respond, move back to just outside the house and just reward response to their name.
7. Be sure to call and then send them back to investigate the yard once you’ve had your party. You don’t want coming to you to always mean that outside time is over.
8. Gradually increase distractions.

Remember that coming to you should always be rewarding. Don’t call them to you for things that they may perceive as negative.