

Professional Dog Training - Bronze



Whistle Recall Training

This information is based on using an Acme Gundog Whistle

Why?

Teaching your dog to recall to the whistle means you have a good back up should your dog get too distracted or go too far away from you. A whistle will penetrate your dog's brain a lot quicker and more readily than your voice.

If you have several people that walk your dog, it means you can give your dog consistency when it comes to recall. If you have more than one dog, you only have to do one recall and they all come running.

How?

Before using your whistle, you need to 'charge it up' so your dog understands it has meaning and is worth paying attention to.

Stage 1

Practice blowing your whistle, 3 short peeps, away from your dog – you will be amazed how difficult it can be blowing a whistle and managing the timing of your treats at the same time.

Having mastered the art of blowing 3 short peeps on your whistle, gather your dog, your whistle and a bag of tasty treats or his food if you are handfeeding.

Stand with your dog's full attention the treats handy and your whistle in your mouth at the ready.

Blow 3 short peeps and deliver a treat to your dog – ideally within 2 seconds of the peeps.

Repeat this 20 – 30 times in one session. Do 2 or 3 sessions a day for 2 or 3 days until your dog is showing a rapid response to the whistle. Now start using the whistle around the house, verbally call him, and when you're sure he's on his way, blow your whistle. Always reward with a game or food.

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You can use your whistle to call him for his dinner. Make sure you call verbally first, followed by the whistle as he heads in your direction.

After a couple of days and plenty of training, try blowing the whistle when your dog is in the same room, but not paying attention to you. If he comes, reward and move your training on.

Stage 2

Start back at the beginning with your 3 peeps, treat, just a quick session.

Do some recall games, using your whistle. This could be the drop and run recall, or a restrained recall if you have someone to help you. When you've made coming back to the whistle have meaning and made it fun, try it out when your dog is slightly distracted in the garden. Make sure you are ready to reward when he comes to you.

Before trying to use your whistle in the park, start back at the beginning with your 3 peeps, treat, just a quick session. Do some recall games using your whistle.

Try using it when your dog is not too distracted, but when he's a little way away from you. Always rewarding on return to you.

Gradually start using it when your dog is more and more distracted in the park.

Take your time training the whistle well – aim to have no failed whistle recalls. This needs to be one strong habit in your dog's head. When he hears the whistle, he just comes running back without even thinking about it.