

**HOW DO I TEACH MY BEAUTIFUL DOG TO COME?** Teaching your dog the basic commands, such as sit, stay and come, are very important. Your dog needs to have a complete understanding of these commands. The following steps will help answer the question, “how do I teach my dog to come? “

*Start indoors.* When you are first teaching your dog a new command, it is important to start in a quiet environment away from distractions.

*Teach your dog to give you his attention.* If you are just starting to train your dog, you may need to wave a treat or call his name to get him to give you his attention. Once your dog responds to your voice, you can begin to train him to respond to commands.

*Choose the right reward.* To get your dog to repeat the behavior once he responds appropriately, you need to encourage him with a reward. Small treats work best for the first few repetitions of a new trick; then you may want to move on to physical rewards, such as playtime or a belly rub.

*Incorporate praise.* Praising your dog is another important aspect of training. Your dog naturally seeks your approval, and if you make it obvious that a certain behavior pleases you, your dog is more likely to repeat it.

*Stand across the room from your dog.* To begin teaching the come command, have someone gently hold your dog’s leash as you stand across the room from them.

*Choose a hand signal.* Many people choose to incorporate the use of hand signals in training their dogs. To use a hand signal, give the hand signal at the same time you give the verbal command.

*Give the verbal command.* Choose a simple word or phrase, such as “come” or “come here,” while giving the accompanying hand signal.

*Open your arms invitingly.* While making eye contact with your dog, open your arms after giving the verbal command to encourage your dog to come to you.

*Praise and reward your dog.* If your dog responds appropriately, immediately praise and reward him, so he connects the reward directly with the behavior.

*Repeat the training sequence.* Repetition is the key to success in training your dog. Once your dog gets the hang of the basic sequence, he will start to automatically respond to the command.