

WHISTLE TRAINING – THE RECALL

It is useful to whistle train your dog. The whistle provides a distinct and consistent sound regardless of any other distractions, whereas the human voice can vary and can also indicate emotions, such as irritation and impatience.

It is essential to **train** your dog to whistle commands – a dog does not automatically understand what a whistle means.

1. A ***recall** whistle command can be several short beeps, or whatever sound you want to make, but be consistent.
2. As you give your dog his meal blow several short beeps on the whistle.
3. This will “condition” him/her to associate the sound of the whistle to food.
4. Repeat this action for a week or so
5. In addition, when your dog is not particularly interested in you, blow several short “beeps” and simultaneously given him/her a special food treat.
6. Repeat this action for a few days.
7. When your dog is in another room or separated room you, in the house or garden, blow the recall command on your whistle. Have a food treat ready. If your dog has built up the correct association he will find you to collect his food treat.
8. Do not put this to the test too soon!
9. When out walking with your dog, use an extending lead and blow the recall command if your dog is paying no attention to you i.e. sniffing or watching something. If there is no response go back to stage (1).
10. Repeat stage (9) if you think that your dog will respond.
11. Don’t become despondent if this doesn’t work first time. Dogs take time to learn and learn by association and repetition. It cannot be over emphasised that training a dog takes lots and lots of repetition. When it doesn’t seem to be working – keep going!
12. If you intend to train your dog to the whistle, carry a whistle at all times when you are out with your dog.

***Recall: A command given to the dog to return too the owner/handler.**