



## COME WHEN CALLED

### The Get It Game:

- Put two treats in one of your hands, and keep the other hand empty.
- Toss one of the treats away from you and tell your dog “Get it!”
- Once he’s gotten the treat, say “Bowser, come!” in a nice, friendly tone, and hold the remaining treat out in your hand for him to see. Smile!
- When your dog gets to you, give him the treat while you *gently* hook a finger through his collar with your empty hand. Then let go of the collar. This way, your dog learns that “come” means to get right in front of you, instead of just running by you.
- If your dog doesn’t come, don’t repeat the command. Walk up to him, put the treat under his nose and back up to where you were. Give him the treat when you get there. Tell him he’s a good boy. If he doesn’t follow that treat, you need better treats!
- Practice this several times a day in several locations. You can do this outside with your dog on-leash, on a long line, or in a fenced yard or room off-leash. You need to make sure that you can always successfully get your dog without chasing him or repeating yourself as you practice this.
- If you’re not sure your dog will come or that you can get your dog if he doesn’t come the first time you call, don’t call him!
- NEVER call your dog to punish or scold him! It’s very important that “come” always means, “good things are about to happen!” If you’re angry at your dog, walk away or put him in a time out. Dogs don’t learn “moral” lessons, but they do learn not to come in case they’re going to be punished!
- Make sure your treats are really good and don’t be stingy! You are teaching your dog to come by offering something great *every time* he gets to you. Don’t assume your dog knows something just because he’s done it right a couple of times, It takes lots of consistent training in lots of places before your dog really knows something.
- Remember to practice this often, usually letting your dog go to play again after he comes to you. Don’t only call your dog to come when the fun is over and it’s time to go. Also call him just to give him a treat, say, “good boy” and a few pats before he gets to play or run again.
- Most common behavior problems can be eliminated by basic training and using kind, consistent, positive methods. Please do not depend on TV for your dog training tips. For more information on trainers near you, feel free to visit our web site or go to [www.apdt.com](http://www.apdt.com), [www.iaabc.org](http://www.iaabc.org), and visit [www.avsabonline.org](http://www.avsabonline.org) and search for “position statements” for veterinary information on preferred training methods.