



ROUND ROBIN RECALL GAME

(Training with 2 People)

GOAL:

Dog eagerly runs to the person who calls and only when called

WHERE:

Inside your house or outside with your dog on a long line or off leash in a safely fenced area

TRAINING EQUIPMENT:

A wearable treat bag for each person, a marker signal (verbal or clicker), a long line available as needed

PREPARATION:

Make sure each person's treat bag is filled with the EXACT same type of treat (otherwise, the dog will usually only return to the person with the higher-value treat). Stand or sit approximately 6 to 8 feet apart. When the dog is successful with 6 to 8 feet, gradually increase the distance between the people.

SCAN ME



for details of Lisa Waggoner's book,

The Original Rocket Recall™: Teach Your Dog to Come

rocketrecall.com

This version of the Round Robin Game loosely resembles a round robin tournament in the sport of tennis where each contestant meets all other contestants in turn. In the round robin recall game, the dog will be running to one of two or more people, one person after the other, first in a pattern, and then randomly when the person calls the dog.

Training with 2 People:

- Person A calls the dog using the chosen recall cue. When the dog is in motion to Person A, she marks the dog for coming, then delivers a treat when the dog reaches her while happily praising the dog.
- Person B calls the dog using the recall cue. When the dog is in motion to Person B, she marks the dog for coming, then delivers a treat when the dog reaches her while praising.

After a few recalls, the dog begins to pick up on the back-and-forth pattern (Person A, to Person B, to Person A again, and so forth). Before long the dog will take the treat from Person A and head off toward Person B even before that person calls.

On the one hand that's great—the dog is learning this is a fun game; however, the dog only gets reinforced with the treat if the person has called the dog. What we want the dog to learn is, "When I hear the recall cue, I run to the person who called me."

Problem Solving:

- If for some reason your dog is loping along as opposed to eagerly moving during this exercise, that's great information. Not what we want, but good information nonetheless. It lets you know that something in your training plan isn't working as well as it should. Go back to where your dog was last successful and begin again there.
- Consider the value of your reinforcer and scan the environment to see if there's something that's distracting to your dog. You might need to raise the value of the reinforcer and/or lower the distractions in the environment or lessen the distance between people.
- If you're unable to lower the distractions in the environment, move to another location where there are fewer distractions.