

ROUND ROBIN GAME

(Training with 3+ 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 3+ 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 when the dog reaches her, she delivers a treat while happily praising the dog.
- **Person B calls the dog.** When the dog is in motion to Person B, she marks the dog for coming, and when the dog reaches her, she delivers a treat while praising.
- **Person C calls the dog.** When the dog is in motion to Person C, he marks the dog for coming, and when the dog reaches him, he delivers a treat while praising.
- Repeat steps 1 through 3 a few times, then it's time to mix it up. Randomly choose who will call the dog. Each time the dog reaches the person who called him, that person delivers a treat and lays on the praise. As before, the dog only receives reinforcement from the person who called him.

I've yet to see a dog who didn't think this was the most amazing game in the world! What could be more fun than frolicking from person to person and eating a yummy treat? It's a fantastic way to add in some fun to your recall training.

Problem Solving:

- If the dog is hesitant to run to a specific person after he's called, she should turn the opposite direction from the dog and trot away or backward a few feet. The movement is usually enough to encourage the dog to continue moving toward that person. It's worth reiterating that if your dog displays any fear, reactivity, or aggression to people or other dogs, those behavioral challenges should be addressed first before launching into Rocket Recall training.
- As always, consider distractions and the value of the reinforcers you're using. You may need to adjust one or the other or both to bring about success.