

THE CHASE ME GAME PHASE 2

(with your dog on a 15-foot long line)



GOAL:

Your dog *rapidly* follows you from 10 to 15 feet away when you say your recall cue and trot away

WHERE:

In your yard or in low distraction areas outside of your home *already known* to your dog

TRAINING EQUIPMENT:

A wearable treat bag filled with high-value treats, a marker signal (verbal or clicker), a 15-foot leash

SCAN ME



for details of Lisa Waggoner's book,

The Original Rocket Recall™: Teach Your Dog to Come

Now that you've practiced Phase 1 of the Chase Me Game on a 6-foot leash, your dog should be eagerly moving with you 100% of the time in and around your home. If so, you're ready for Phase Two (if not, please continue with Phase One).

Training:

- With your dog on the long line and positioned 5 to 10 feet away (you want some slack in the leash between you and the dog), turn your body *away* from him while you look in his direction and say his name.
- The instant he looks toward you, say your recall cue, "Shazam!" in a very happy tone of voice and trot or run anywhere from 5 to 15 feet away.
- As he starts to follow you, continue to verbally encourage him ("Good boy!") and while he's in movement with you mark his behavior of following you, turn toward him, and the moment he reaches you, put your hand on his collar and feed him a treat while telling him he's the best boy in the world.
- After you deliver the first piece of food, continue to tell him what an amazing dog he is as you deliver one tiny piece of food after another for 15 to 30 seconds while you continue to exuberantly praise him.
- Repeat this sequence 5 or 6 times until your dog is rapidly following you.

Graduating to a 15-foot long line from a 6-foot leash is a big jump in difficulty for your dog. The distance between you and your dog makes it more challenging. If you practice in grassy areas around your home or away from your home, that's ratcheting up the difficulty even more. Put some thought into when it's appropriate to add that additional level of difficulty.

Your goal is to gradually build the distractions when you're training. Achieving success (your dog rapidly following you) is your goal.

Problem Solving:

- If for some reason your dog is slogging along during this exercise, that's beneficial information. It tells you that something in your training plan isn't working. Go back to where your dog was 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.
- If you're unable to lower the distractions in the environment, move to another location where there are fewer distractions.