

THE CHECK-IN GAME PHASE 2

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



GOAL:

Your dog offers attention to you regularly without your asking

WHERE:

In your yard and in *low-distraction* locations away from your home

TRAINING EQUIPMENT:

A wearable treat bag filled with 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

rocketrecall.com

Once your dog is consistent in and around your home area on a 6-foot leash, pat yourself on the back. It's time to build upon your success. In Phase 2 of the Check-In Game you'll work with your dog on a 15-foot long line.

Training:

- Play this game first outside your home in your yard.
- With your dog on the 15-foot leash, take a leisurely stroll around your house. Observe your dog, who likely has his attention elsewhere. Your goal is to say *nothing at all* while keeping your focus on your dog.
- The *instant* your dog orients toward you or looks at your face, mark/feed and verbally praise your dog. Then remove your attention and let your dog continue to do what dogs do—sniff or look around at all there is to see.
- Continue to watch with your peripheral vision and the moment the dog orients toward you again, mark/feed and praise.
- Repeat multiple times in the yard around your home until you're getting consistent success, then you can begin taking your dog to other low-distraction areas in your community (the park on a Sunday morning where there will be fewer people, etc.).
- Your goal is to help your dog always get it right. This is not about testing his limits with a newly learned skill.

Problem Solving:

- If the dog seems too distracted on the 15-foot leash, gather up some of the leash in your hand to shorten the length or return to the 6-foot leash. He'll be closer to you and will be more likely to check in with you.
- If at any time the exercise isn't successful, move to a lower distraction area, and/or raise the value of your reinforcer, or go back to where you were last successful.