

THE CHASE ME GAME PHASE 3

(dog off leash)



GOAL:

Your dog **rapidly** follows you when you say your recall cue and trot 5 to 10 feet away

WHERE:

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

TRAINING EQUIPMENT:

Wearable treat bag filled with your dog's #1 high-value treat, marker signal (verbal or clicker), 15-foot long line available

SCAN ME



for details of Lisa Waggoner's book,

***The Original
Rocket Recall™:
Teach Your Dog
to Come***

rocketrecall.com

If your dog is 100% reliable with Phase One and Two of the Chase Me Game, you're ready to move to Phase Three—off leash training. Notice that because this could be a harder job for your dog off leash, the length the dog is expected to rapidly follow is reduced to 5 to 10 feet.

Training:

- Stand near your off-leash dog.
- Turn your body **away** from him while you look in his direction, say his name, and the instant he looks at you, say your recall cue, "Shazam!" (always in a very happy tone of voice), and trot or run anywhere from 5 to 10 feet away.
- Mark his movement toward you, turn to him, and when he reaches you, again put your hand on his collar and feed him a treat (don't forget to also exuberantly praise him).
- After you deliver the first piece of food, continue to deliver one tiny piece of food after another for 15 to 30 seconds while also praising him.
- Repeat this sequence 5 to 10 times, varying the distance between you and your dog. The goal is for your dog to rapidly follow you.

Problem Solving:

- Phase Three is infinitely more challenging for a dog because he's off leash. It's a much harder job than being on leash. Dogs see their world through their nose. Think of all those amazing smells on the ground, not to mention the unusual sights and sounds in the environment. Expecting an off-leash dog outside to focus on you with those types of distractions in the environment is akin to letting a child loose in a candy store and expecting him to pay attention to you instead of all the candy. Be sure to take training at the dog's learning pace.

By now you should have an idea of how to problem solve any lack of desired response from your dog. If something isn't working, take a minute to consider what you might do to help your dog be more successful. If you change your thinking process from "My dog's blowing me off" to "My dog's having a difficult time with this exercise," it will help you be empathetic about your dog's learning process. Learning rarely occurs in a straight line.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Have I moved too quickly in the training process?
- Did I achieve consistent success throughout all the prior training phases?
- Am I using high enough value food?
- Are there too many distractions (wildlife, people, sounds, vehicles)?