



OFF-LEASH PREP

Recall: Emergency Whistle

Introduction

- Get some AMAZING, super special high value treats ready. Use something your dog doesn't get at ANY other time, like roast beef, steak, bacon, chicken nuggets (*trust us, the more exciting, special, and unexpected the reward, the better your training outcomes will be!*).
- During a boring, not-at-all distracting time, blow your whistle when you are standing 2-4 feet away from your dog (be careful not to blow it too loudly at first, if your dog is sensitive to noises).
- As soon as your dog notices the sound/looks toward you, start offering the high value rewards. Give 6-10 generously sized pieces, one after the other, praising happily as you do.
- Put everything away and go about your business.
- Go through this routine of blowing the whistle, then rewarding VERY generously with super special treats, 1-3 times per day for 7-10 days. Don't introduce distractions or make things difficult; our ONLY goal here is to establish a strong, positive conditioned emotional response to the whistle.

Inside Practice

- After your 7-10 days of introductory work, you'll start (pleasantly) surprising your dog with the whistle cue less frequently
- 2-3 times per week, blow the whistle from a different room, then reward your dog generously with VERY high value treats when they get to you (multiple pieces of chicken, roast beef, BACON (!), or meat balls - the equivalent of a ping-pong ball-sized rewards is appropriate for this).

Outside Practice

- When your dog is enthusiastically rushing to find you in the home upon hearing the whistle, you can start to introduce the cue OUTSIDE
- At first, practice it only during your off-leash sessions on the long line, by including ONE whistle recall at some point during your training session.



- Again, reward with a generous amount of a very high value treat (something different than what you use for the “Come/Here” recalls and auto check-ins)

In Real Life

- After several weeks of inside and outside practice, you can start to use your whistle recall in real life as needed.
- Good places to use the whistle (remember, always sparingly) are big, wide open spaces like parks, and during off-leash hikes in the woods if your dog spots something interesting and starts to move quickly away from you.
- The whistle is a VERY special cue; it should only be repeated maximum 2-3 times in one outing (ideally only 1-2 times).

TRAINING TIP: Buy a few whistles, and attach one to your key chain, put one in your purse, stick one in the dash of your car, etc.