



EAST FREMANTLE  
Veterinary Clinic

Owners Handout – Week 2

# EAST FREMANTLE VET CLINIC

## PUPPY PRESCHOOL

### Teaching your puppy to come when called

It's important to teach puppies to 'come' when they are called. This will enable you to, for example, call your puppy back if he is heading towards a dangerous situation, such as a busy road.

If your puppy comes back to you reliably, you can allow your puppy more freedom because you'll feel more confident to allow him off the leash more often (where it is safe and legal to for your puppy to be off leash).

### Getting your puppy to come on cue

- 1 Stand a short distance away from your puppy and say his name in a happy voice so that he turns around and makes eye contact
- 2 Extend your hand toward the puppy with a treat or kibble
- 3 Wave the food toward you and say "come" as the puppy runs to you
- 4 Immediately give the food to the puppy and say "good dog"
- 5 Take a few steps back. Show the puppy a second treat or kibble, say his name and repeat the verbal cue, "come"
- 6 Practice this exercise at home and move farther and farther away from the puppy
- 7 Once the puppy is doing well, begin calling your puppy when he is not looking at you and then reward your puppy when he comes to you.

#### TIPS

- Bend or squat down when calling your puppy. This shows the puppy with your body language that you are less threatening to approach
- If you are having trouble gaining the puppy's attention, clap first then call the puppy's name
- Teach 'come' when the puppy is on leash before trying off leash
- If your puppy turns and goes the other way, run away from the puppy so that he chases you. As he chases you, call "come". When he reaches you give him a treat and lots of praise
- Start in an environment where there are no distractions. When your puppy is reliably coming to you when called, slowly progress to safe and fenced outdoor areas with increased distractions.



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