



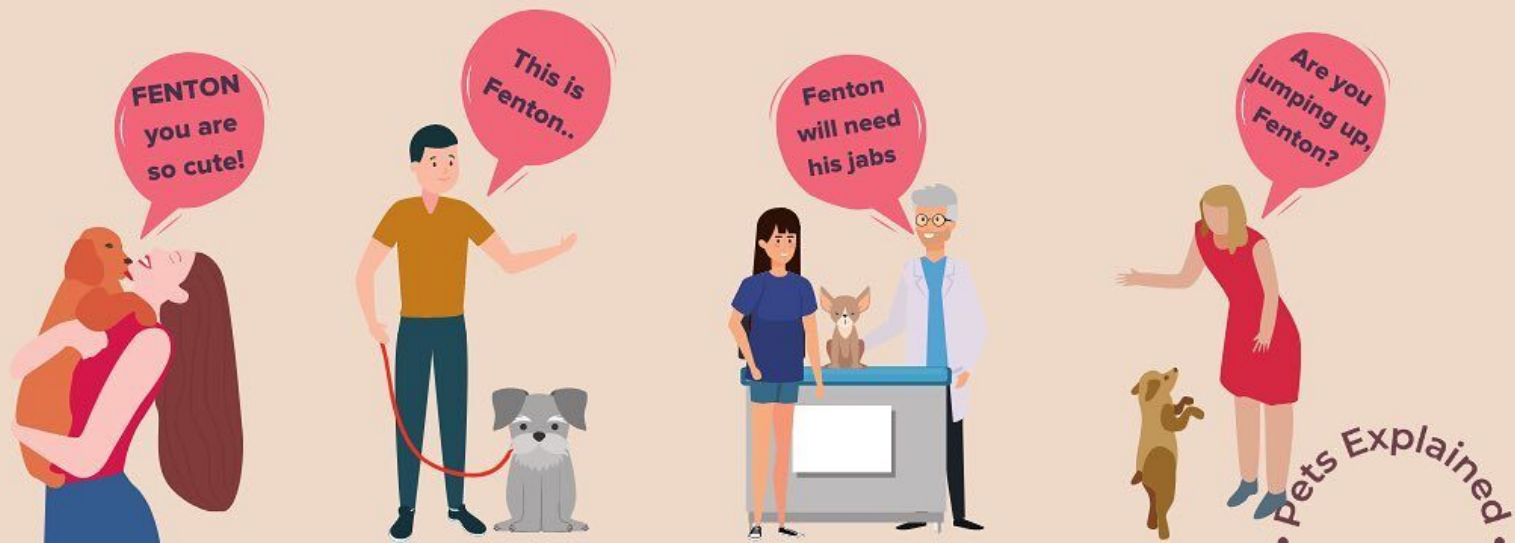
Teaching  
**Robust  
Recall**





# The name game

Your dog 'knows' his name, but ignores you when you call him. Is he just being stubborn? Not really. When you call your dog expecting him to come back, you are using his name as a 'come' cue. But dogs hear their name used in so many different contexts, they may struggle to link it to your intention.





# So, what now?

**You need to make it clear to your dog that a) you are calling him expecting him to return to you, and b) coming now is much more rewarding than whatever else he may be distracting himself with.**

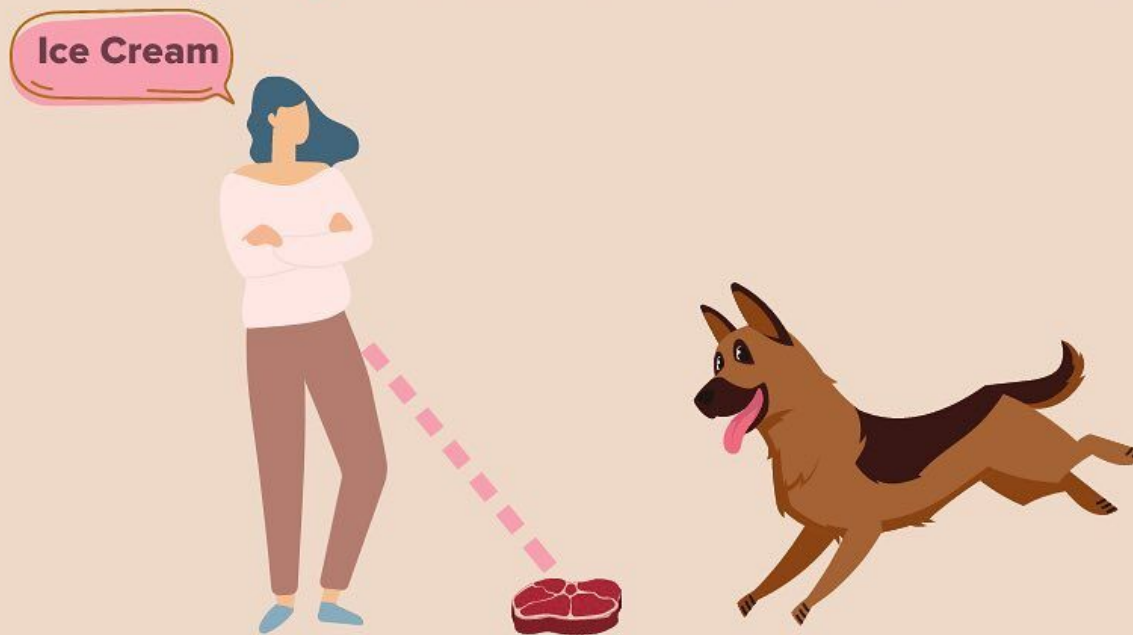
**First, you need to choose a distinctive word that won't get confused with another command.**

**Ice Cream**



# Recall = Fun

**Reward is a stronger motivator than avoiding punishment, and returning to your new word must be rewarding. Say the word clearly around the home at quiet times, and give him a high-value food treat within 1 second, every time you say it, even if he doesn't come.**





# Associations

**The last step has taught your dog that your 'word' = a reward. He should be excited and eager to come to you when you say it. Now you're ready to teach him that he must come to you to get the food. Repeat the previous step, but only reward him if he comes to you.**





# Distractions

**Once he's got the hang of it, he will come running at home when you say the word. Now repeat the previous step outside the home, in a quiet area but with few minor distractions - not on a main road or at a busy park. If he doesn't come to you, try in a calmer place.**





# Building up

**Now he's successfully able to manage to recall with few or distant distractions, he's ready to progress to more 'normal' areas, such as mildly busy roads or parks with other dogs offlead. Repeat the step above in these situations. If he's struggling, go back a step.**





# Still no joy?

**If your dog is struggling with an ongoing behaviour problem such as excessive aggression or reactivity, he may struggle significantly with recall training. Highly anxious dogs may need behaviour modification. Get in touch with a behaviourist for help.**

