

• Canine Connection •

from Sarah Richardson's Canine Connection

* It's Time For Spring Training - Come Visit Chico's Complete Canine Education Center!
Spring 2010 Edition *

✦ Highlights ✦

Dr. Sarah's Dog Tips

I love springtime. The longer days and warmer temperatures make me feel energized. As I start imagining summer activities, I am reminded that this is the perfect time for spring training. Spring DOG training, that is. Just as it's time to tune up my bicycle, so it is time to tune up my dog's good manners. Why? Because my well-mannered dog can go more places and together we can have more summertime fun! What are my spring training priorities? First is fast "recalls" (the fancy word for "come here now!"). Our hikes in Upper Bidwell Park will be so much more enjoyable (and safer) if I know my dog will come when called (see article this page for great training tips!). Next is loose
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"Don't delay—
start training today."
- Dr. Ian Dunbar



LIVING WITH DOGS

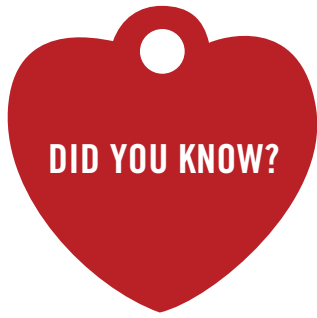
The 5 Rules of Recall

In a perfect world, dogs would come every time we call. They would reason—with the human logic we so often ascribe them—that obedience is in their long-term interest. They would respect our parental authority or respond out of sheer devotion.



Well, dogs may be family members that love us dearly, but they are not people. Dogs prioritize doggie things, which means that other dogs, good sniffs, and off-leash fun win almost every contest. It isn't personal—your dog is just being a dog. If you want a bulletproof recall for when it truly counts, you must train it, patiently and consistently. Here's what to remember:

1. *Never call your dog for anything unpleasant.* Such as nail clipping, bathing, or having his leash clipped on to go home from the park. In short, anything that might give him pause the next time you call him.
2. *Never call your dog if you are not sure he will come.* All recalls should be successful recalls. Work at your dog's level: If he has a kindergarten-level recall, don't give him a graduate assignment like being called away from a cat in a tree.
3. *If you call your dog and he doesn't come, you must make it happen.* Run over to him and put a treat in front of his nose, backing up as you get his attention so he follows you.
4. *Never repeat the command.* Resist the urge to call over and over and over. It only teaches your dog to tune out the command. Call once and, if necessary, use rule 3. Make the recall happen.
5. *Fabulous rewards get fabulous recalls.* If you want your dog to stop whatever interesting doggie thing he is doing and come running to you, make it worth his while. Use extra yummy treats—no dry biscuits here!—or a well-thrown ball, if that is your dog's fancy.



The Most Popular Dog Names?

Today, female:
Molly, Maggie,
Daisy, Lucy,
Bella, Sadie,
Ginger, Chloe,
Bailey, Sophie

Today, male:
Max, Buddy,
Jake, Rocky,
Bailey, Buster,
Cody, Charlie,
Bear, Jack

40 years ago, female:
Nikki, Lassie,
Lady, Mae,
Rose, Laika,
Gracie

40 years ago, male:
Fido, Rover,
Bowser, Spot,
Snoopy, Bandit,
Ace

Naming trends:

More and more, dogs and kids get the same names. Men give macho names (Spike, Gangsta), women don't (Natalie, Pooky), and kids go Disney (Simba, Mushu).



A WORLD OF DOGS

Home Advantage

That rescue groups rely on a network of foster volunteers for their life-saving work is not news. But now many municipal animal control centers and larger humane societies are following suit, adding foster programs or expanding existing ones. As a rescue strategy, it works. Having foster homes solves space constraints, drastically cuts the occurrence of communicable diseases, and better prepares the dogs for adoption into permanent homes. A foster dog sleeps on a bed in a real home. Baths and cuddles are part of his routine. He is walked on leash every day, and lives as part of a family. Consequently, potential adopters get a much clearer picture of the dog's true personality than they would from the frightened, bored, frustrated, and desperate version of him they'd likely find in a shelter kennel.

For many shelters, however, a primary obstacle to expanding their foster programs has been finding enough foster homes. Mind you, the problem rarely comes down to a shortage of devoted dog lovers, but rather a number of commonly held misconceptions; for example that having one or more dogs at home already disqualifies you as a foster home. In fact, the opposite is often true. The presence of other dogs can help the foster dog settle in much faster. Another oft-quoted objection to fostering is the emotional toll.



People imagine it too heart-wrenching to take in a dog and have him as your own, only to hand him over to someone else a few weeks or months later.

Granted, most foster volunteers confirm that good-byes can be tearful. And countless rescue dogs have gone into homes as fosters but emerged as card-carrying (or rather, tag-carrying) family members because parting with them was just too hard. But other foster volunteers cite the undeniable greater good and swear that, even at a personal level, the rewards outweigh the costs. Many stay in touch with the adopters through email or social networking, getting photo updates and little notes about their former charges' new lives. At the end of the day, more lives—of perfectly lovable dogs—are saved. Surely that is worth a dip into a box of Kleenex every now and again?

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leash walking. I look forward to reconnecting with my community as I walk my dog (not race Iditarod-style) on-leash around town. Third is calm greetings. If I don't want my dog jumping on summertime guests, I'd better start teaching him a polite "sit for hello" now. Dog training is like fitness. We need practice to strengthen our dogs' good behaviors and keep them tuned up and toned. Summer is around the corner. It will be even more enjoyable if you start your spring training program now.



DOGS IN ACTION

Flyball

Flyball is a canine relay race in which dogs sprint over a series of hurdles, trigger a spring pad to release a tennis ball, catch the ball, and dash back. This spectator-friendly sport is as popular with hobbyists as it is with serious competitors. Although flyball is the perfect energy outlet for high-drive dogs like Border Collies and Terriers, dogs of any type can participate, including mixed-breed. Small dogs are particularly sought-after, because hurdle height is based on the height of the smallest dog on the team. (The only snag is, the dog needs to be heavy enough to release the ball.)



The spirit of the flyball sport is first and foremost to have a great time with your dog and other dog-loving people, an attitude reflected in team names like the Birmingham Bandits and Canine Conspiracy. But many are also serious athletes—the best teams run all four dogs through the 51ft course in less than 20 seconds. The current World Record is 14.963 seconds, held by Las Vegas-based flyball team Touch N Go, which set the record in May 2009 in Hurricane, UT.

For more information, visit the North American Flyball Association at www.flyball.org.



HEALTHY DOG

Flea-Fi-Fo-Fum!

For such a miniscule creature, fleas can cause great misery. The relentless itching and subsequent discomfort and sores are bad enough, but some dogs suffer allergic reactions or anemia from an infestation. Telling a beginning flea attack from normal grooming in a dog can be tricky, so the best policy is to check every few weeks as a matter of course. Look for fleas behind your dog's ears, around the head and neck, and in his 'armpits.' Alternatively, run a flea comb through his coat, drop some hair on a white paper towel, and add water. Red or rust-colored stains on the towel indicate fleas.

Prevention is key. This is all the more important because once fleas become established in your home, they're difficult to eradicate. A variety of medical and holistic flea prevention treatments exist. Ask your veterinarian what is right for your dog. More info: www.petsandparasites.org.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Border Collie

A medium-sized dog with a maximum-sized engine. Border Collies excel at sheep dog trials, agility, flyball, disc dog competitions, canine freestyle, tracking, and competitive obedience—and make excellent search & rescue dogs. Topping Stanley Coren's list of intelligent dogs, these highly trainable exercise- and mental stimulation addicts are happiest when they have a job to do. Originally bred for herding, Border Collies still work on farms in many parts of the world, but some now hold white-collar jobs, too. Jag, for example, regularly accompanies his dad, Montana's Governor Brian Schweitzer, to work. Famous past fanciers include Queen Victoria and 18th century Scottish poet laureate Robert Burns. In popular culture, Border Collies of note are Fly and Rex, the herding dogs in the movie *Babe*, and The Dog, hero of the comic strip *Footrot Flats*.

For a Border Collie to tend *your* flock of sheep, search Google for a rescue organization near you—they can be found in most areas.



OUR SERVICES

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SERVING CHICO AND BEYOND SINCE 2002! THANK YOU CHICO AREA DOG LOVERS FOR SHARING YOUR DOGS WITH US!

OUR SERVICES

Puppy Kindergarten and Socials
Obedience - Basic to Advanced - and Small Dog Obedience too!
Agility - just for fun - or for fun AND competition
Rally Obedience, Canine Musical Freestyle, Tricks
Private Training
Therapy Dog Training and Evaluation
Educational Seminars and Events
Dog Day Care (oops, we mean "Play Care" since it's so much fun!)

OUR FACILITY

Our state-of-the art indoor training center is complete with central air/heat cushioned rubber flooring, comfortable seating, restroom and outdoor play yard. At our our store you'll find only the best training equipment, treats, toys, and food. Come see us at 2990 Hwy 32, Suite 2100, Chico.

OUR STAFF

Dr. Sarah Richardson (Certified Professional Dog Trainer and Certified Dog Behavior Consultant) has worked professionally with dogs of all breeds and behaviors since 1997. She and her dogs are frequently featured in the national publication, "Whole Dog Journal". Dr. Sarah leads a professional staff that is passionate about helping bring out the best in your dog!

VISIT OUR WEB SITE! www.TheCanineConnection.com.

COMING IN SUMMER 2010....PREMIUM BOARDING!



Disaster Preparedness

- ✓ **Plan for evacuation.** Health & safety regulations preclude bringing pets (except service animals) into disaster shelters, and many Katrina victims perished because they refused to leave their pets behind—so plan ahead!
- ✓ **Microchip and tag your dog.** Compile a list of places that might board animals in an emergency. E.g: Pet friendly hotels and motels, boarding facilities, horse stables, or veterinarians. (Animal shelters should be a last resort as they are often overwhelmed with animals in a crisis.)
- ✓ **Make a Disaster Kit.** Wherever you go, you'll need supplies. Gather the essentials in an easy-to-carry duffle bag.
- ✓ **Bring:** Medications and medical records. Leashes, harnesses, and/or a carrier. Current photos, in case your dog gets lost. Food, water, bowls, and can opener. Notes about feeding schedules, medical conditions, and behavior problems in case your dog has to be boarded.

(Compiled from The American Red Cross)



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