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## Attention Cue - Pup Pup Recall

Teaching your puppy to respond to your attempts to get his attention is one of the first things on your training list. It allows you to be able to interrupt an unwanted behavior, for example stealing a sock, or heading towards something that could be dangerous for them. Simply ignoring your dog just isn't all that effective or appropriate with curious puppies. Ignoring doesn't stop rehearsal, the possibility of danger, or a reinforcement that might be just around the corner (or on the kitchen counter!).

Your puppy is going to come home with you basically already programmed to respond to this cue, because Theresa uses it at her kennel. Now you are going to teach it further and use it to get your pup's attention. Plus, it will be your first recall cue.

*Recall* (dog training definition): any means you use to get your dog to return close to you.

This is not limited to "Come" although that is a very popular one that most dog owners want to teach. But the facts of just using the cue come to get your dog to return to you locks you into a negative pattern that leads to the breakdown of the cue.

So, I am giving you variety at first; an alternative. A simple recall cue that does not have as much structure, and also very easy to use in a variety of situations so that it can be rewarded often. And if it is ignored, it is easy to fix.

### Stage 1 - Establishing the Behavior

1. Get some treats and your pup.
2. Wait for your puppy to divert her attention off of you.
3. Say, "Pup pup" in a nice happy tone and give your puppy a piece of food.
4. Repeat a number of times. You want to see that when you say the words, your puppy immediately looks at you to get the food.
5. When the previous step is accomplished, you can then begin saying your reward marker when your puppy looks at you.
6. Rewards can come from your hand, be placed on the ground in front of you, or dropped at your feet.
7. Next add movement. Hold your pup while you toss out a treat, then release your pup.
8. Just as your pup eats the treat, and before she does any other behavior, say "Pup pup."
9. Say your reward marker for eye-contact, or orienting to you, or coming back to you - take what your pup offers, and reward by holding out the reward or placing food at your feet. Remember you can always refine things as you go through the training process.
10. Play this at home with zero distractions first.
11. Then take it to a new room and work (new stuff = distractions) there. Play and toys can also be used as a reward for the cue.

Next, you are going to practice the cue when your pup is otherwise engaged in an activity. Make sure that arousal levels are still low so that you and your puppy can be successful. Mark

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and reward desired behavior by tossing a treat, and then play the attention sound game for a little bit to reinforce the fun!

### Stage 2 - Refining the Cue

1. When going outside, I'd like you to first work a few foundation cues, just so you know your pup can listen and pay attention. Then release your puppy to explore.
2. Very quickly you will make your attention cue. When your puppy does ANY of the desired behaviors (eye-contact, turning to you, beginning to return to you), say your reward marker and then hold out your hand to offer the reward. You can drop the food on the ground if it is big enough and easy to find. If you don't like tossing food on the ground simply hold it in your hand for your puppy to come and get. Praise your puppy, too!
3. Then, allow your pup to wander and get a little distance. Practice your "Pup pup" from varying distances from close to farther away. Inside you can even go around a corner or piece of furniture.
4. Mix it up with your games and when practicing other cues (foundation cues, play, etc.) to keep things fun and interesting. Put productivity into play, and use play as a reward. Variety is the spice of life!!

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### Trainer Tips:

Stack Rewards: Remember that rewards don't have to just be food. Adding in praise is very important, but make sure to pair it with other wonderful things to boost value. Other rewards are things that your puppy loves - so a favorite toy, play, and affection (touch, scratches and petting) are all at your disposal and should be used so that your puppy learns to be flexible with rewards.