

## Retrieve to Hand: Part C

In this section we are going to strengthen the recall ('come') and add a 'sit' at the end. We will do this without a dummy and then progress to adding a dummy to the return and a sit in front.

Do the following steps in the house.

1. Call the dog to you using your recall cue/command ("come" or "here"). When the dog arrives click and treat. Immediately ask the dog to sit in front of you. When it does, click and treat. Walk off from the dog a ways and repeat. Do this 5-6 x and then end.
2. In the next session, call the dog to you and wait to see if the dog will give you a sit on its own. If so, click and treat. If it doesn't, give the 'sit' cue and when the dog responds click and treat. It is alright to give the 'sit' cue, just wait until the dog responds to click and treat.  
Once the dog is understanding that a 'sit' is required when coming back to you (with a cue or not) to get the treat, you will now require that behavior every time you give a recall command, no matter if it is part of a retrieve or not, and no matter where you are or what you are doing. This is important, because we want the dog to develop an automatic response to sit when recalled.
3. Do several sessions, changing places in the house, and then move to the yard after the dog is doing it well (80 % of the time) indoors.
4. Outside, put a check cord on the dog. Proceed as you did in the house, starting with short distances and then enlarging the distances to the maximum distance of your enclosed yard. This exercise is pretty boring to dogs so only do it 3-5x/session and make sure they get a good treat and praise. Having them a bit hungry, helps. Also, a play session or run afterwards makes it more fun for the dog.  
Because the dog may become distracted when outside, you may have to use the check cord to get compliance. To do this, grab the check cord and give a couple of quick, light tugs on the collar as you give the recall command and then just stand there. Do not pull the dog to you. If the dog responds and comes to you, click and treat. If not, give a couple of more light tugs, but no command. Click and treat when the pup responds. If you are having to use the check cord for getting compliance on the 'come', it is not time yet to add the "sit" to it. If this is the case, practice your recall in several sessions, with high value treats until the dog willingly will come to you without check cord inducement. Then go back to adding the 'sit' cue at the end of the recall as described above.  
Remember the "come" is the most important command for you and your dog. There must be absolute obedience. So, it is up to you to make sure that the dog wants and is willing to come to you. Never ever reprimand or hit or yell at your dog when it comes to you. That will destroy the trust your dog has in you. Always praise for coming. If there is a situation where you ask the dog to come and he/she doesn't, go get the dog, leash the dog up and go back to the car, or house. Make it a point to run your dog with a check cord so that you can catch your dog if the recall command is not strong yet or working.

Adding the dummy. Go back inside to do the following sessions.

5. As in Part B, place a dummy a short distance in front of your dog. Send your dog for the retrieve. When you dog returns to you, ask the dog to 'sit'. The pup may spit out the dummy at first and then sit. That is ok. You can just pick up the dummy and gently put it back into the dog's mouth while it is in the sit position. You may have to hold the dummy in place with your hand under the chin. As soon as the dog is sitting and holding the dummy, click and treat. Or you can say 'fetch' again and when the dog picks it up, ask for a 'sit' again. It may take a few times for the dog to understand that it has to do two things at once (hold the dummy and sit). This can be mentally taxing to the dog, so remember to be patient, quiet and kind. Remember cues should be said as statements with a calm voice....no forceful command like FETCH!!!GDI!!!.
6. When the dog understands that it must sit in front of you on the return with the dummy you can change the criteria by doing your retrieve sessions in different rooms in the house. Make sure the dog knows this 'sit' part (80% compliance) before moving on.
7. Then you can change the criteria again and begin asking the dog to hold the dummy for a longer time period before clicking and treating. After the dog returns with the dummy and sits in front of you, wait 1-2 seconds

before you click and treat. ( Do not use the word 'hold' as it is extraneous. The word 'fetch' means the entire process from going to get the dummy, to returning, sitting and holding it until you say the release command.) Work up to 15 seconds. As the dog understands this new criteria you can add the release cue ('out', 'give' or 'drop') when you click, then treat. Also, as the dog understands these new criteria of holding while sitting, start varying the holding period, before giving the release command: 1 sec, then 5, then 6, then 3, etc. That teaches the dog to pay attention to you and not assume that he knows when to drop the dummy. Be aware of what you are doing with your body. If you lean over every time he comes to you he will think that is the release and will begin to anticipate the drop. Do not reach for the dummy until you give the release command.

8. Now you can go outside and work through all the previous steps of parts B and C in the yard.