

TOTAL RECALL!

BUILDING A DISTRACTION-PROOF RECALL CRITERIA LADDER



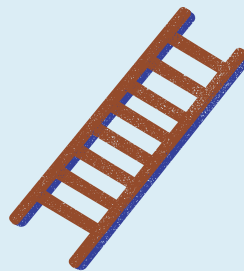
For pups brave enough to recall through flying bacon-stuffed toys, bubble storms, and imitation squirrels on parade!



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What's a Criteria Ladder?



It's a step-by-step plan to help your dog succeed—even when the world is full of things saying “Don't go to your human!” Each rung of the ladder adds just one level of difficulty at a time. Go slow, have fun, and celebrate every win!

Step 1: Know Your Dog's Kryptonite

Start by writing down YOUR dog's top 5 distractions. What makes your pup say “Heck no, I've got better things to do!”

Examples:

- Food on the ground
- Squeaky toys
- Moving animals
- Strangers calling them
- Other dogs playing
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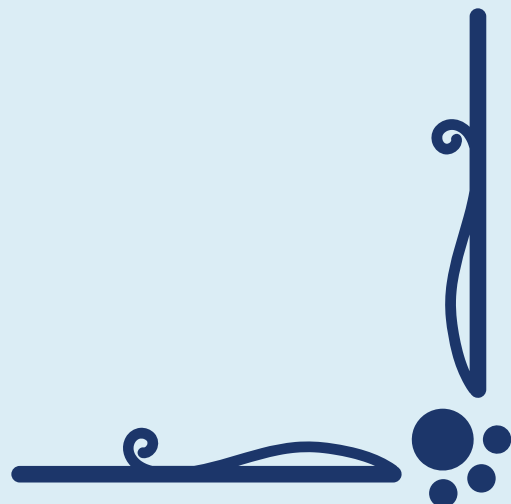
Now make a list of super easy situations that your dog can't fail!

Examples:

- A rock on the ground
- A piece of pocket lint
- Coming to you in a small room
- A book or crumpled paper
- Empty water dish



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Step 2: Sort Distractions From Easiest to Hardest

For YOUR pup! What's mildly tempting vs. "I cannot resist this siren song!"

Examples of very easy starting points:

1. Stationary food inside a container 20 feet away
2. Toy on the ground in a sealed container
3. Food being tossed that is very low value while you have canine caviar
4. Running dog nearby but at a level your dog can easily succeed
5. Stranger calling with fake treats 50 feet away





Step 3: Build Your Ladder!

Here's a basic template to get you started. Each level = more challenging. Don't move up until your dog has at least 5 wins out of 5 on the current step!

Example of a Criteria Ladder:

In your house bathroom, no distractions > "Come!" > Jackpot treats + play

In your house, low distraction > "Come!" > Food toss + party

Backyard on long line, mild distraction > "Come!" > Tug or chase reward

Add distraction at a distance (e.g. toy or food) > "Come!" > Mega reward

Increase distraction proximity > "Come!" > Bigger reward

Call away from movement (e.g. person running) > "Come!" > Tug, jackpot, or treat rain

Call away from most tempting distraction (e.g. tossed hotdog or another dog) > "Come!" > Party like it's your dog's birthday

The most important thing is that you build a ladder of success. You want your dog to succeed at every "rung" of the criteria ladder.





Tips for Nightmare-Level Distraction Success

Use a long line for safety and control or be in a fenced yard



Rehearse success—don't practice failing we need a minimum of 80 percent success 90 percent is better

Reward bigger than the distraction - build a reward ladder and use the best reward for the hardest distractions

Lower criteria if your dog struggles—easy wins build confidence --go for half of what you just did

Make it a PARTY every time your dog comes to you - be fun

Film your progress—celebrate goofy fails & epic wins

If you need help with your dog, we are here for you, just let us know LoveDogs@CourteousCanine.com!



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