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## Rockannand Formal Obedience Training – Lesson 5/6

### The Recall

Before the handler starts one of the most important exercises, the Recall, he has to be certain that he can leave his dog at least for one minute in position.

When this is accomplished, the handler now leaves his dog with the proper signal and command and faces him on the extent of his leash. If properly trained for the heeling and staying, the dog will now look at his trainer and wait for the next command.

The handler now takes his leash into his left hand and gives a clear signal and verbal command and immediately steps quickly backward to increase eagerness of coming. While running backward, the handler keeps his eyes on the dog and in a coaxing voice calls him in close, almost touching the handler with his muzzle. This should be done quickly, without telling the dog to sit. (Place the dog in a sitting position by pushing the dog's head up and away from you gently, with your feet guiding him so that he is sitting square.)

After a few seconds, the signal and command "HEEL" follows and by stepping backward with the right foot and forward with the left, the dog is brought into the heel position.

The handler has not at any time changed the direction in which he was looking after he faced the dog in the sit-stay position. When the dog is in proper heel position, the handler praises him generously and takes the dog's mind off this with a few steps heeling.

The proper hand signal to recall is with your right hand across your chest in the standing position; never bending down and coaxing. Now the right and left foot step as shown. Only then is the exercise completed and the praise follows.

Remember to repeat this exercise only after a few turns in heeling and another exercise in the sit-stay. When the handler returns to the heel position, the dog has been on leash, including the staying, and never under any circumstances is the dog released from the leash when trying to recall. The dog cannot be allowed to run toward the handler while a leash is dragging behind. A slight accident or painful experience by stepping on the leash can make training very difficult, especially for the recall.

Every trainer should remember that training an animal is nothing but forming a habit by patient repetition of the same exercise with the same command, signal, and of course always in the same tone in your commanding voice. Since the spoken word has no meaning, it is the tone only that makes the impression.

Remember the four hand signals – the two with the left hand for heeling and staying and the two for the recall with your right hand to come and to step into heel position. If you are uncertain in the exact manner either is given, omit it altogether and ask the instructor at the next class session.

The sit-stay exercise is now still the most important and it is advisable to practice this one more often than any other. Distractions should be added, such as placing the dog in the midst of a schoolyard or at a busy intersection, or by taking him into other unfamiliar surroundings, and then still insist on a motionless sitting position.

Keep in mind that a dog as a pack animal needs a leader who is stringer in any way and he will show more respect and affection if you are able to be his pack leader and friend.

**Dedicated to the Preservation and Promotion of The German Shepherd Dog**