



Love this dogshome

# Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

Operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League.  
Locations at Hobart, Devonport, & Burnie.

Post Office Box 7  
Lindisfarne TAS 7015

[www.dogshomesoftas.com.au](http://www.dogshomesoftas.com.au)

## Canine Connections

### Teaching Your Dog to Come When Called



Many dogs' owners feel they cannot always rely on their dog coming back to them when called. Even well trained dogs have occasions when they will not respond to their owner's call.

A better understanding of the nature of dogs gives us an insight as to why and when a dog may ignore a call to return:

- Dogs are hard-wired to chase moving objects; this hunting instinct is more highly developed in breeds such as terriers and sight and scent hounds. When a dog is chasing a moving object, the excitement of the chase means the dog is less likely to respond to the owner's call.
- When a dog meets a new dog and both are off lead, neither are likely to be keen to respond to a call from the owner. If one dog makes a sudden or quick move, it could be misinterpreted as an indication of attack by the other dog. If an owner calls their dog under these circumstances and the dog quickly turns to run to the owner, it is more likely to be pursued by the other dog. Dogs understand this, so when they meet it is usually a slow moving, stiff-legged gait 'circle and sniff' procedure.

Training your dog to come back to you works best when the return is associated with a pleasant reward such as a food treat, enthusiastic praise and a pat. Resist the urge to growl at your dog for not coming to you sooner. When an owner growls ... "come here you bad dog", it's not surprising that the dog becomes reluctant to return. A dog or puppy should never be scolded when it comes to the person calling it. Instead it learns that coming when called is always an agreeable experience involving pats, praise and food treats.

#### **Burnie Dogs' Home**

170 Stowport Rd.,  
Burnie TAS 7320

Ph: (03) 6431 6199

#### **Devonport Dogs' Home**

Spreyton Park Racecourse  
Devonport TAS 7310

Ph: (03) 6427 2178

#### **Hobart Dogs' Home**

101 Scotts Rd.,  
Risdon Vale TAS 7016

Ph: (03) 6243 5177

*The information in this brochure offers general advice on animal care and responsible dog guardianship. This information is offered in good faith however the TCDL cannot accept any responsibility for acts or omissions based on this advice.*