

FREE TRAINING TOOL

Recall Readiness Scorecard

Is your dog ready for off-leash freedom? Score the skills that matter before you unclip the leash.

CIA DOG TRAINING

Real recall is more than coming when the kitchen is quiet.

It is your dog choosing you over smells, movement, dogs, people, and excitement. Use this scorecard to find the exact gaps in your recall—and the safest next step for building reliable freedom.

1	Rate each skill honestly: 0 = not yet, 1 = sometimes, 2 = reliable.
2	Test only in a safe setup: indoors, fenced space, or on a properly handled long line.
3	Add your points, find your score band, then follow the seven-day plan.

JEFF'S RULE

“Freedom is earned through clarity, repetition, and proof around distractions.”

The 20-Point Recall Scorecard

Circle one score for each statement. Score what your dog can do today—not what you hope they will do.

#	SKILL	0	1	2
1	Name response Turns toward me promptly when I say their name indoors.	☐	☐	☐
2	Room-to-room recall Comes from another room without seeing food first.	☐	☐	☐
3	Low distraction Comes away from a toy or food distraction in a controlled setup.	☐	☐	☐
4	Outdoor long line Comes promptly outside while safely attached to a long line.	☐	☐	☐
5	Sniff interruption Can disengage from sniffing and return without repeated cues.	☐	☐	☐
6	Dogs at a distance Returns around a friendly dog at a manageable distance.	☐	☐	☐
7	Excitement recovery Can hear and respond after becoming excited or animated.	☐	☐	☐
8	Collar touch Allows a calm collar or harness touch when arriving—no drive-by recall.	☐	☐	☐
9	Reward history I consistently reward fast, enthusiastic returns.	☐	☐	☐
10	One clear cue I give the recall cue once instead of repeating or chasing.	☐	☐	☐

YOUR TOTAL

 /
20

What Your Score Means

Your number is not a judgment. It is a training map. Start in the band you earned and build proof before adding freedom.

0–7	Foundation First Build name response, engagement, and a rewarding indoor recall before adding distance or distraction.
8–14	Building Reliability You have useful pieces. Train on a long line and improve the specific situations that scored 0 or 1.
15–18	Nearly Ready Your recall is promising. Proof it around carefully controlled distractions and reinforce collar-touch arrivals.
19–20	Ready for a Structured Plan Strong foundation. Keep safety controls in place while you graduate freedom one environment at a time.

Fix the lowest-scoring links first

If #1–2 are low	Make yourself valuable indoors: say the cue once, move away, celebrate the arrival.
If #3–5 are low	Use a long line. Begin far enough from the distraction that your dog can still succeed.
If #6–7 are low	Lower excitement or increase distance. Reliability grows below the threshold—not in chaos.
If #8 is low	Reward after a gentle collar touch so “come” never predicts being grabbed or punished.
If #9–10 are low	Improve the handler habit: one cue, fast reinforcement, and no poisoned repetitions.

SAFETY FIRST

A high score is not permission to test near traffic, wildlife, unfenced hazards, or where off-leash activity is prohibited. Use a fenced area or properly handled long line until your dog has repeatable proof in that environment.

Your 7-Day Recall Reset

Keep sessions short, energetic, and easy enough to win. Stop while your dog still wants more.

DAY 1	Make the cue valuable 5 easy indoor recalls. Move away as you cue; reward generously when your dog arrives.	☐
DAY 2	Add room-to-room distance Call once from another room. If needed, reduce distance instead of repeating the cue.	☐
DAY 3	Reward the collar touch Recall, gently touch the collar or harness, reward, then release back to fun.	☐
DAY 4	Go outside on a long line Choose a quiet area. Practice 5 recalls before your dog becomes overexcited.	☐
DAY 5	Beat a mild distraction Use distance from a toy, food, or sniff spot. Reward the choice to disengage.	☐
DAY 6	Change the picture Practice in a second safe location. Lower difficulty when the environment gets harder.	☐
DAY 7	Retest and compare Rescore all 10 items. Celebrate the gains and circle the next two skills to train.	☐

Two skills I'm improving next:

1. _____
2. _____

What made my dog most successful:

READY TO BUILD A RELIABLE OFF-LEASH DOG?

Turn your score into a structured training plan.

Visit OffLeashIn3Weeks.com to see the next step.