



Minnesota NAVHDA

Natural Ability Level Recall

Know your pup! If he's a hard charger, you're in good shape. Now it's time to get some Basic Obedience.

- If he's timid or not excited to search the field, **DO NOT WORK ON RECALL** except at home.
- Work on recall from day one. Your puppy should always want to come to you when called. Start young with treats, pets and praise.
- Never punish by first calling the pup to you. Instead, go to him if you need to correct him. He will think twice about coming if he's ever been smacked on the rear.
- "Here" is easier on your vocal cords than "Come". For test purposes, a whistle is even better. The sound cuts better through the wind and other distractions. Blow the whistle after calling him as you progress, so that either works.
- Decide on your whistle commands and be consistent. Maybe one blast for whoa (which you will train later), two for change of direction, and five or more for "here". He can't count, so don't try to use three!
- This can also be a good time to introduce wearing the e-collar and using the "tone" command (if your e-collar features that) to overlay with your verbal "Here" and "whistle" command. "Tone" can be very useful later as a more subtle way to communicate with your distant dog when in the presence of birds or when hunting with other dogs.
- A hand signal can help, like an open palm for him to come and touch.
- Start on a leash, then a longer check cord. He needs to come every time you call. If you call and can't enforce it, he might think it's optional.
- The command is "Here", not "Here, Here Here,Here". As stated above, make sure you can enforce it when training.
- It should be a calm command, you don't want the pup to only come if you yell.
- During the test, you don't need him to come all the way back to you, he only needs to acknowledge and quit the chase or get back to searching. Don't panic if you don't have a perfect recall for the NA.
- Go slow and in small increments. The puppy must always be successful. Remember- be patient. **Praise any success!** What you do or don't do could have a long-term effect on your pup.

Bold - Confident - Curious - A little bit Cooperative, is all you need.

More information can be found at: <https://mnnavhda.org/puppies-and-natural-ability-exposure/>

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