



How to Teach Your Puppy Its Name **The First Step to a Lifetime of Communication**

One of the very first things your new puppy needs to learn is their name. It's not just a formality—a strong

name response lays the foundation for all future training, from recall to obedience to emergency safety.

Whether you've named your puppy Rex, Luna, Khaos, or Bella, the process of helping them learn that their name means “pay attention to me” is simple, quick, and fun.

Why Name Recognition Matters

-  Builds focus and communication between you and your pup.
-  Helps them respond faster during training and play.
-  Is a vital part of developing a bond with your puppy.
-  Your dog's name should be a cue to look at you, not just a word you say out of habit.

Step-by-Step: Teaching Name Recognition

-  Pick a quiet place to start: Choose a distraction-free space like your living room or a fenced yard.

- 🗣️ Say their name in a happy tone: As soon as your puppy looks at you, say “Yes!” or “Good!” and give a small, tasty treat.
- 🔄 Repeat 5–10 times in short bursts. The goal is to teach your puppy that hearing their name means something awesome happens.
- 🚫 Don’t repeat their name: Say it once, and wait. If they don’t look, make a silly noise or pat your legs to get their attention, then reward.
- 🌍 Practice in different places: Try the same exercise in other environments like the yard, the park, or on leash walks.



🧀 **Pro Tip: Use High-Value Rewards**

In the beginning, use something extra special—like tiny bits of chicken, cheese, or freeze-dried liver. The more exciting the reward, the faster your puppy will learn.



🚫 Avoid These Common Mistakes

- 😡 Don't use their name in frustration (e.g., "Khaos, no! Khaos, stop it!").
- 🚫 Don't overuse it—save it for when you need their attention.
- 🛁 Don't call them and then do something unpleasant, like a bath or crate time.

🐾 What If Your Puppy Has a Litter Name?

At Spartan Rottweilers, we often assign litter names like "Blue Boy" or "Pink Girl" for tracking purposes. But your puppy's real name becomes the one you use at home—and it starts to mean something important the moment you begin training it with love, treats, and consistency.

🧠 Bonus Tip: Pair Name Training with Recall

Once your puppy consistently looks at you when you say their name, you're ready to start recall games like "Come!" and our favorite: "Puppy puppy puppy!" (see our full recall guide!)

❤️ Final Thought

Name recognition is simple to teach but incredibly important. It's one of the first ways you build trust, communication, and joy with your new puppy.

Start early, keep it positive, and you'll have a puppy that lights up every time you say their name.