



Leave It

You can use Leave it if you drop something, to call your dog from chasing or eating something or to use if your dog is overly interested in something.

You will need treats, a favorite toy and a leash for this training.

1. Place a treat in your hand and show your dog it's there. Close your hand. The moment your dog shows interest in your hands, say "Leave It". They will sniff, nudge and lick but WAIT and don't remind, be patient. The moment they stop trying to get to it and look away from your hand say "Yes!" – you can then open your hand and let them have it as a reward. TIP: You can also say "Take It" as you open your hand, before they get the treat. This will help you teach Leave It and Take it Together. Once your dog is doing well, practice this with an open hand but keep it above your dog's nose at first. Gradually build up to having it closer to their nose but be fair and don't rush.
2. Place a treat on the floor. Form a "cage" over it by using your fingers over it (be sure your dog can't get to it). Repeat the steps above by saying "Leave It" every time they try to sniff, lick or get to the treat. When they stop – let them have it as a reward for leaving it. Practice until your dog understands.
3. Begin with your dog on a short leash with minimal slack. Gently toss ONE treat away from you, far enough away so that your dog CANNOT REACH IT (this is VERY important). As soon as your dog shows interest in it (by sniffing or pulling towards it) say your dog's name and "Leave It". Do not pull your dog back (assuming they cannot reach it and you've tossed it out of their reach). Wait...wait until your dog looks away from the treat and quickly say "Good Leave It" and reward them with a treat from your hand or treat pouch. Repeat. Walk around the treat (again, be sure you don't get too close!) and repeat. Practice this until your dog looks away as soon as you say "Leave It".

Do NOT ask your dog to Leave It on walks yet. They need to understand the fundamentals of it by practicing the games above first. After working with treats, you can try their favorite toy or, better yet, a KONG stuffed with goodies that they can have at the end of the training session.

If you fail and your dog gets the treat or toy accidentally, don't worry! Just start over and be more careful next time.

Once your dog understands you can practice on walks. Continue this training until your dog is very reliable. Once they are you can use a lighter lead to test them. If they succeed, it may be time to trust them and know that they understand!

Drop It

Teach Drop It by simply trading for whatever is in your dog's mouth. You can trade with either a treat or a toy. The moment they let go to trade say "good drop it". Practice, practice, practice.