



Leave It

Goal: To teach your dog to think before acting and not behave based on impulse but instead being mindful.

Level One

Part One

- 🐾 Start with you sitting on the floor and your dog in front of you (doesn't matter if she sits or not).
- 🐾 Place a treat on the ground on your right side so your dog can see it and cover it with your hand. Spread your fingers a little so your dog can smell the yummy treat.
- 🐾 The only way your dog will get a treat (not the one you are covering with your hand) is by ignoring the treat on the ground and looking at you. Some dogs will lick your hand and some will paw at your hand. All of this is normal so do not tell your dog not to do this.
- 🐾 The MOMENT your dog ignores the treat your hand is covering and looks at you, give her treats from your other hand (small pieces) while saying in a super happy upbeat voice LEAVE IT, repeating this a few times and then saying "no more" or whatever you chose as your release word (i.e.; we're done, that's it etc.). The whole time you are giving treats from your hand the original treat lays exposed on the floor.
 - 🐾 Note: your dog NEVER gets the treat on the ground that you had your hand over, and you are never saying "good girl" "good job" etc., you are only saying "leave it" since this is the action your dog is doing.
- 🐾 Repeat on the right side until your dog stops going for the treat under your hand and looks at you whenever you place it there.
 - 🐾 Note: the faster your dog looks at you the more energetic your voice should become, and the bigger "jackpot" (more treats) your dog will get.

Part Two

- 🐾 Repeat the above steps on your left hand side.

Things to keep in mind:

- 🐾 Every dog learns at their own pace. Do not get frustrated if your dog does not pick up the behavior right away.
- 🐾 During training fight the urge to pet or kiss your dog. Your dog is in training. You are not going to run on the field and kiss your kids during a game. it would make them lose focus and be annoyed by you. Treat your dog the same way.

Level Two:

Part One

- 🐾 Start with you sitting on the floor with your dog in front of you (doesn't matter if she sits or not).
- 🐾 This time instead of placing the treat on the floor you will toss it to your right side (this is more difficult as this brings on the prey drive in your dog).
 - 🐾 Note: Don't toss it too far that you cannot put your hand over it if you dog tries to go for it.
- 🐾 As in level one, your dog only receives treats by ignoring the treats that you tossed on the ground and looking at you. The **MOMENT** your dog ignores the treat looks at you, give her treats from your other hand (small pieces) while saying in a super happy upbeat voice "LEAVE IT", repeating this a few times and then saying "no more" or whatever you chose as your release word (i.e.; we're done, that's it etc.). The whole time you were giving treats from your hand the original treat lays exposed on the floor.
- 🐾 If your dog goes after the treat, they only get one reward treat when they finally look at you, with one command of Leave It then try again.

Part Two

- 🐾 Repeat the above steps on your left hand side.

Things to keep in mind:

- 🐾 Remember at this stage you are not saying "Leave It" until your dog looks at you.
- 🐾 Do not move to level 3 if your dog is still chasing the treat on the ground.

Level Three:

Part One

- 🐾 Start with you standing with your dog in front of you.
- 🐾 Show the treat to your dog and then toss it to your right side and make sure not to toss it so far that you cannot put your foot over it if your dog goes for it

- 🐾 3.If your dog goes after the treat, they only get one reward treat when they finally look at you, with one command of “Leave It” then try again.

Part Two

- 🐾 Repeat the above steps on your left hand side.

Things to keep in mind:

- 🐾 Remember to never give your dog the same number of treats for a Jackpot as you will teach them to count. Always make it a surprise as to how many treats they are going to get this way they always want to learn and do not get bored.

Level Four

- 🐾 Start with your dog standing in front of you.
- 🐾 You’ll use two phrases: Lets Go and Leave It.
- 🐾 Start walking while saying to your dog “Lets Go”, while making enticing sounds if needed (similar to coaxing a horse to move).
- 🐾 As your dog starts following you, toss a treat to the ground and say “Leave It”!
- 🐾 As your dog leaves it, give her a Jackpot.
- 🐾 If she goes for it, cover it with your foot and say “Leave It” in a more serious tone of voice.
- 🐾 Repeat with a few treats.

Notes:

- 🐾 Practice it with different treats and toys in as many locations as possible.
- 🐾 When on a walk, have super special gold level treats and as soon as seeing another dog, ask your dog to “Leave It” and reward generously. After she does so let her meet the other dog.