



Leave It

WHAT IS IT?

“Leave It” is a command that asks your dog to leave or ignore a variety of objects such as food, toys, garbage, other people, dogs, etc.

WHEN AND HOW TO USE “LEAVE IT”

- * “Leave It” can be used whenever you need your pup to stay away from a specific object.
 - * When they have a strong “Leave It” command, it can also be applied to ignoring people, other dogs, and noises / sounds.
 - * Lots of practice on-leash is encouraged before we can expect our dogs to leave items off-leash!
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HOW TO TEACH “LEAVE IT”

Step 1

Let your pup see that you have a treat in your hand before closing your fist and covering the treat up. Tell your pup to “Leave It” just once, and then allow them to use their critical thinking skills! When they have completely taken all body parts away from your hand, mark the moment with a “Yes” and reward them. It is important during this step to keep your hand as still as possible—you can brace it against your leg or a surface if necessary.

Step 2

Placed a treat on the floor, cover with your hand, and ask your pup to “Leave It” once.

When they have left your hand completely alone, mark the moment with a “Yes” and reward them.

Step 3

Stand and place a treat under your shoe, and then ask your pup to “Leave It” once. Mark the moment with a “Yes” when they have completely left your foot alone and are giving you eye contact. Follow up with their reward.

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Leave it (*Continued*)

Step 4

Cover the treat and ask your pup to "Leave It." Once they have left your hand alone, remove it so that the treat is uncovered. If they go for the treat, quickly cover it and wait for them to leave your hand alone before trying again. Repeat this until they are able to leave the treat uncovered for a short amount of time. Mark the moment with a "Yes," and reward.

Step 5

With your pup on leash, toss a treat just out of their reach. Ask them to "Leave It" and mark the moment with a "Yes" as soon as they turn toward you and away from the treat. Reward them when they make it back to you away from the tossed treat.

* Make sure they are responding to the "Leave It" command quickly before moving on to the next step.