



Manners

LEAVE IT

In order for your dog to have the best success in our Manners program it is vital that you practice his new found skill at home!

We define leave it as your dog should completely ignore the object. Do not practice leave it with objects that belong to your dog. Leave it means the item does not belong to your dog.

Before you start leave it, you want to have a bunch of small, chewy treats at the ready. You also want to have the treat that will be the “leave it” treat. That treat will not get eaten by your dog and can be slightly larger than the treats you are using as a reward.

- Start with the leave it treat in your palm and have it facing up. Whenever your dog goes after the treat, say “Leave it” and shut your hand immediately. When your dog stops reaching for it, you can give your dog a treat from your pocket with the opposite hand.
- Next you can make it harder by putting the treat on a surface slightly higher than the floor such as a coffee table. Repeat “leave it” and cover the treat with your hand when your dog attempts to go after it. Once your dog can leave the treat alone, give him a reward from your other hand. Pick up the leave it treat after you are finished and put it aside.
- When your dog can successfully practice this on different surfaces, you can make it harder. Place a leave it treat on the floor and then practice walking past the treat while saying “leave it”. When your dog chooses to continue walking with you past the treat, give him a reward and praise him!
- Once your dog is successfully leaving cookies alone on the floor it is time to start using other objects such as shoes, remotes, etc.



It is important to remember that whatever object you use for “leave it”, your dog is never allowed to have.