

# Teaching Your Dog Leave it

## An Emergency Brake For Your Dog

Train "Leave it" to keep your dog from grabbing things he shouldn't, like food that can make dogs sick.

Hold a treat in each hand. Slightly expose the treat in one hand, lower it near your dog's face, and say "Leave it!" Close your hand into a fist if your dog approaches it. With your other hand, lure the dog to look at your face. As soon as the dog leaves the treat in the lowered hand and looks at you, mark the behavior by saying "Yes!" Reward with the treat from your lure hand. Repeat, never allowing the dog to eat the treat from your "Leave it!" hand. Switch hands and practice the same steps.

Next, use the under-the-foot technique to help your dog generalize the command. Place a treat under your foot. Allow the dog to sniff, paw, or lick at it but not get it. Say "Leave it!" and lure the dog with a treat to look at your face. Say "Yes!" and reward as soon as the dog looks at you. Repeat. Next, repeat the under-the-foot technique but slowly expose more of the treat.

## Foods that are Dangerous for Dogs



Alcohol



Apple Seeds



Cherry Pits



Chocolate



Coffee



Grapes



Moldy Foods



Onions



Raisins



Tea



Walnuts



Yeast Dough

When you've successfully completed the steps above, raise expectations. With your dog leashed, toss a treat out of reach. When the dog looks at it, say "Leave it!" Reward as soon as your dog looks at your face!

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