

# Leave-It

**Leave-It** is a command that will tell your dog that whatever he or she is looking at is not theirs and they should just forget about it.

To teach Leave-It, start with an object that your dog will likely not care about anyway. Show it to your dog. When your dog looks at the object, say, “Leave-it.” Now you wait. Wait until your dog looks anywhere in the entire universe except at the object. When that happens, say “yes” and then reward the dog. Practice on the same object until your dog looks away immediately after you say “Leave-It.”



Once your dog is responding to the command quickly, it’s time to choose another object. The next object should be slightly more interesting than the last, but still not something your dog will really care about. Proceed practicing with the new object. Once your dog masters this second object, it’s time to move on to the next one...and so on and so forth.

**Some Notes About Leave-It:** This command is best used on objects that will never be given to your dog. If you practice this on your dog’s toy and then later give it to your dog, that may be confusing. The concept behind Leave-It is that the dog should completely forget about the object because it’s never going to be theirs.

If there is an object on the ground that you want your dog to leave alone, simply keep walking. This most often occurs on walks. Perhaps your dog sees a discarded food wrapper. Say “Leave-It” but keep walking. This will encourage your dog along and will increase the likelihood that they will forget about the object. Don’t forget to say “yes” and reward your dog when their eyes are no longer fixed on the interesting object.

