



## Steps for the “Leave It” Command

### Level 1

- Put a treat in your hand and close your fist.
- Put your fist right in front of your dog’s nose.
- Let the dog sniff, nibble, paw, and mouth at your hand. If the dog is mouthing hard, put a glove on.
- Be patient. Dogs who have not ever learned self-control take a while to figure this out.
- The instant the dog moves his head away from your fist, cue “yes!” open your fist, drop the treat on the floor and cue the dog to “get it.”
- When the dog does not try to eat your fist five times in a row, he is ready for the next level.

### Level 2

- Hold a treat in your open palm right in front of the dog’s face.
- If the dog tries to grab it, close your fist. Do not pull your hand away from the dog.
- When the dog backs off, open your fist.
- The instant the dog backs away from your open palm, cue “yes!” drop the treat on the floor and cue the dog to “get it.”
- When the dog does not attempt to snatch the treat five times in a row he is ready for the next level.

### Level 3

- From this level forward, all treats are fed from your hand, you do not drop anything on the ground.
- Put a treat on the ground and cover it with your hand.
- The instant the dog stops trying to get the treat out from under your hand, cue “yes!” pick up treat and hand feed it to the dog.
- When the dog does not attempt to eat your hand five times in a row he is ready for the next level.

### Level 4

- Put a treat on the ground with your hand right next to it. If the dog tries to grab it, cover it with your hand. When the dog backs off, uncover the treat.
- The instant the dog pulls his head away from the uncovered treat, cue “yes!” pick up the treat and hand feed it to the dog.
- After three successes, you are ready to introduce the “Leave It” command.
- As you put the treat on the ground say, “Leave it.” Praise the dog for several seconds for not taking it. You may then pick up the treat and give it to the dog. Do not ever allow the dog to take the treat on the ground. He can have ONLY what you hand him.