



The Down

Foundational

Definition of Leave It:

It means: not lunging, slack leash, looking away, turning away, walking away, looking at you, or backing up.

Leave It Cue - Stationary Position

1. With your leash ready to steady your dog, pre-load your lure hand and tuck it behind your back then show them a distraction (food/toy).
2. Cue "leave it" then drop it on the furthest side away from your dog. Pause and wait 3-10 seconds for your dog to disengage from the distraction, using your leash tugs to prevent them from accessing it.
 - a. **If your dog leaves it:** Mark with "yes" (duration marker) and lure them away from the distraction as you pay. Do not let them access the distraction.
 - b. **If your dog doesn't leave it:** Do not reward them. Say "no" (no reward marker) and tug on the leash. Lure them away from the distraction as you pay. Do not let them access the distraction. Use a lower value distraction or work further away from it, if your dog fails more than 3 times in a row.
3. Repeat this process several times until your dog is successful 3/3 times.
4. Then practice working closer to distractions or practicing with around higher value distractions.

Leave It Cue - Moving Position

See *"Understanding Distractions"* for more information on controlled distractions and examples.

1. Ensure the leash is in ready position to redirect and steady your dog. Cue your dog "leave it".
2. With a distraction toy or treat, drop it on the furthest side away from your dog.
3. Cue "leave it" again as you approach it and walk past the distraction, using your leash to prevent them from accessing it.
 - a. **If your dog leaves it:** Mark with "yes" and pay after you have passed it.
 - b. **If your dog doesn't leave it:** Do not reward them. Say "no" and tug on the leash. Repeat step 3. If your dog is really struggling use a lure to keep their focus (after they have seen the distraction).
4. Repeat this process several times until your dog is successful 3/3 times.
5. Then practice working closer to distractions or practicing with around higher value distractions. Have someone hold the distraction or put it behind a barrier to help manage your dogs success.

When to Advance the 3 D's

Remember The Rule of 3. If your dog easily completes three successful reps in a row, advance to longer duration, standing further away from the dog (distance), working closer to distractions or higher distractions. Only focus on challenging one of the 3 D's. If your dog fails three times in a row go back a step and make it easier.