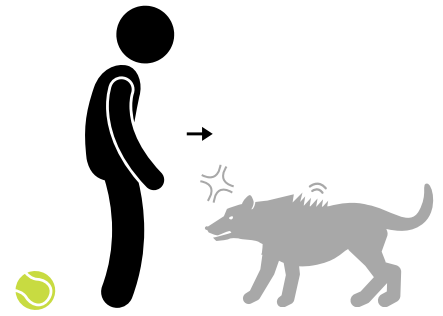


## THE CLAIM GAME

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*The goal of the game is to be able to recall your dog past the distraction without them accessing the distraction*



1. Start with your dog on a short leash and a distraction ready.
2. Toss the distraction (like food or a toy) behind you — something your dog really wants.
3. Step into your dog's space to block them from going toward the distraction.
4. Walk calmly but firmly into your dog's path, using your body to take space. Keep the leash short so they can't pull around you, but try not to use it much — the goal is for your dog to respond to you, not just the leash.
5. It's normal if you have to walk your dog several feet away from the distraction at first — keep going until they turn away and stop trying to get past you.
6. Give your dog space as soon as they turn away from the distraction.
7. Back up a few steps while facing your dog. This is their “reward” for respecting your space.
8. Then, start slowly walking toward the distraction — still facing your dog. If they try to rush past you, stop and block again like in step 2.
9. Practice until your dog can stay calm and walk near the distraction.
10. Once your dog can walk with you calmly within 3–4 feet of the distraction, or can recall past it without trying to grab it, reward them!
11. Use your release word like “Break!” and let them go get the distraction.

### Tips & Tricks

- Keep the leash short to prevent your dog from circling behind you or slipping past.
- Start with an easy distraction and gradually work up to more challenging ones.
- Focus on using your voice and body language rather than relying on leash pressure.
- When done effectively, your dog will begin to disengage from distractions more quickly in response to your spatial pressure.
- Use the least amount of pressure necessary to achieve the desired response.
- If your dog attempts to go behind you, block their path or use your voice to guide them back to position.
- Practice at least 3-5 times with a controlled distraction (food, toy, family member) before relying on it during your walks.