



## LESSON: Leave It

**Goal:** We will cue “leave it” for any item that is off-limits to your dog to keep them safe. Example: Garbage, medication dropped, road kill, etc.

- 1) **WARM UP** Put a treat in your palm and close it up. Present your closed fist to your pup’s nose. Your dog may sniff, lick or paw your fist to get to the treat within. Hold your fist still and be patient.
- 2) Once the pup disengages (turns head away, backs away or looks at you) mark with a “yes” and treat from your pouch.
- 3) Repeat X 5
- 4) **VERBAL CUE** Show your pup the treat and say, “leave it” once with your good morning voice. Immediately, place the treat under your shoe on the floor (block it). Wait. When your dog disengages, mark “yes” and treat from the pouch.
- 5) Repeat X 5
- 6) **FADE THE BLOCK** Show your pup the treat. Say, “leave it” once and then place it next to your shoe (blocking only if the dog tries to get it). Mark, “yes” and treat from the pouch when dog disengages.
- 7) **DISTANCE** Gradually decrease distance. The closer the “leave it” item is, the harder it is to leave. Always blocking if necessary to prevent dog from self rewarding.
- 8) **CHANGE THE VALUE** Begin with lower value treats such as kibble. Then gradually get harder using training treats, chicken, hot dogs, cheese or bully sticks. Always blocking when necessary.
- 9) **MOTION** Show your dog the treat. Say “leave it” once then drop it from knee height. Blocking if the dog tries to get it. When the dog disengages, mark “yes” and treat from your pouch. Once dog is 80% proficient at knee height, practice dropping the treat from higher heights such as your hip.