

REVERSE LEAVE GUIDE

Many people use a "leave it" cue but this involves watching your dog and being able to micromanage them and cue them to leave things which you don't want them to take.

Sometimes it is better and easier to teach a dog the reverse – not to take things unless they are given permission to. This is what this training looks to achieve.

EQUIPMENT



Treats
(low & high value)



Scrunched up
ball of paper



Harness



Fixed length
short lead

TRAINING



Start with your dog on their lead – this training will make them pull so this should be attached to a harness not a lead.



You are going to start by teaching your dog a cue which means they get to eat the thing you drop on the floor.

So you are going to say the words "take it" and then drop a treat in front of your dog – within the length of their lead so they can reach it.



Repeat  this 10 times...So "take it" "take it" "take it".



Then what you are going to do is deliberately drop a treat OUT OF REACH of your dog and when you do this you are not going to say the words "take it". The dog is likely to pull to try and get to the treat – stand still and do not let them reach it!

Your dog is likely to then turn to look at you – to try to work out why they can't move forward to the treat.

As soon as they do this and give you eye contact use your marker word "good" And then say "take it" and let them move forward to the treat.



APBC

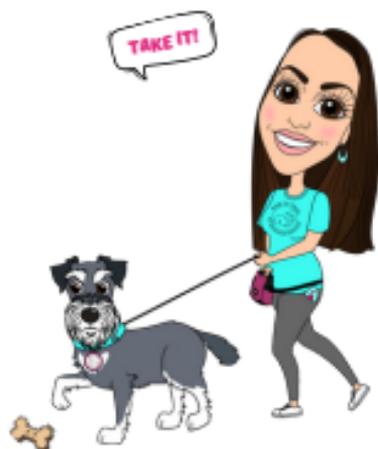
ASSOCIATION OF PET
BEHAVIOUR COUNSELLORS

Rachel Rodgers MSc, BSc(Hons), PGCE,
Clinical Animal Behaviourist (ABTC-ATI, ABTC-CAB)



- 5 Repeat the process, sometimes dropping the treats near the dog saying "take it" just before you do, and intermittently dropping treats out of reach & NOT saying "take it". Only say "take it" once the dog has checked in with you.
- 6 When you have done this several times get your scrunched up ball of paper. You are going to drop this in front of your dog - without saying the "take it" cue. If they turn to look at you - mark with your marker word "good" and then reward your dog BESIDE you - they are learning to leave items on the floor if you have not given them permission to take it with the "take it" cue.
- 7 Practice step 6 several times before moving on to more and more difficult things that you do not want your dog to take. If they succeed, remember at this stage in training mark and reward them for NOT taking and eating things!

EXAMPLE



Drop treat close
and say "Take it"



Drop treat out of
reach & wait for
dog to look at you!