



The Basics of Leave it, Wait and Off

Leave it:

The leave it for your dog will translate to: *Don't Touch it, Don't look at it, Don't eat it, Don't roll in it....Look to me and all great things come your way.*

Drop a treat on the ground far enough away from your dog so you can block him. As you drop the treat, use the voice command "leave it" and use your body and feet to block your dog from getting the treat. Dogs are quick, so be careful not to let dog get treat, block him!. Your dog will stare at the treat on the ground and you will block your dog from getting the treat with your feet and body. Eventually, your dog will stop staring at the treat on the ground and look to you to see what's going on. The moment your dog looks up at you say the positive word marker, "yes", then give your dog a treat from your hand. Pick up the treat on the ground.

Wait:

The wait teaches your dog to have nice manners and allows you to go through any new territory first.

Using an entrance, with a door, and holding the leash very loosely, say the voice command "wait" as you hold the doorknob. Open the door very slowly. If your dog starts to walk through doorway, quickly close the door. Don't worry, your dog will get out of the way. Repeat until your dog does not move toward the doorway. As you open the door, step in front of your dog, face your dog, and slowly walk backwards, out of the doorway. If your dog moves forward, step right at him and back him up. Say, "wait" again and slowly backup again. Repeat until dog does not move forward. Once you are on the other side of the door jam, praise your dog, then give him the release word "ok" and pat your leg, encouraging your dog to walk through the doorway. Running through the doorway is the reward. If you want to give your dog a treat throw it behind your dog while he is waiting. This reinforces the behavior for your dog that "wait" means you can move, but you cannot come forward until released. If you do not have a door then use your body. Use the same hand signal as "stay" and the "wait" voice command. This time you step right in front of you dog, facing him, and block your dog from moving forward any further. Keep the leash loose. If your dog moves forward, step right at his chest and back him up. Make sure you are standing upright. Do not use your hands to push your dog. Do not use the leash. Just use your body. Pretend you are a football player blocking a defensive lineman from getting to your quarterback. Some dogs are quick to run by you, so be ready. Once your dog is waiting, walk backward to the end of the leash. Once you are at the end of the leash and your dog is not moving, praise and then release.

Off/No jumping:

Teach your dog to have great manners and not jump up on a person as they approach to say hello. Always manage the situation if a stranger approaches and prevent your dog from jumping in a new situation by standing on your dog's leash. Leave enough length from your dog's collar to where you are standing on the leash so as not to pull down your dog's head. Give the command "off", as the person approaches praising treating your dog as long as they have all 4 paws on the ground. If he jumps, ignore him! Don't look at him, nor touch him. You are still standing on his leash so he can jump all he wants, the leash will stop him. As soon as he sits, praise and give a treat. Have the other person praise and give your dog a treat too. If your dog jumps up have the other person who was approaching your dog turn around and walk away. Do this several times and with several people if possible. You also can tell your dog to sit as the other person approaches. Reward your dog highly for sitting. Also have the other person reward your dog for sitting. If your dog jumps up, turn your back on your dog, ignore him and have the other person walk away. Your dog, with practice, will learn that he gets absolutely no rewards or attention for jumping up. Instead he will learn that all great things happen when he sits and/or doesn't jump. Utilize this when your dog is on Tie Down as well. When utilizing the Tie Down, approach your dog, act excited to pet your dog. If your dog starts to jump turn and walk away, making sure not to pet your dog. Repeat until your dog can sit and not jump up as you pet. Make sure, as your dog is sitting, pet him, praise him AND give him a food reward. Then practice with other family members and friends. Soon he will sit every time someone approaches him.

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