Leave-it: Take-it/Drop it (Mine)

The goal of this exercise is to teach your dog to drop something. Drop-it is for when they have something in their mouth. Up till now, we have taught them to leave something alone or to ignore it *before* they get it in their mouth. We then gave them permission to take something. Now we want to teach them to drop something *when it is in their mouth*. Use a favorite toy for this activity. If their favorite toy is too rewarding and exciting for them use a toy of lesser value. You will need very high value treats to teach Drop-it, something that is of more value than the toy they are given.

Warm-up
Warm up with Leave-it and Take-it with a treat.

Steps
Using a favorite toy:

1. Hold out the toy in front of the dog and say “Take-it” and reinforce you dog by tugging a little bit with the toy to engage them in play.
2. With multiple higher value treats in your other hand, while still holding onto the toy, place a treat under their nose and entice them to take the treat.
3. As your dog takes the treat and lets go of the toy, say “Mine” and give them the treat. Give them a couple of treats so the act of letting go of the toy becomes more valuable than holding onto the toy.
4. Repeat steps 1 - 3.

Caution: Do not pull the toy out of their mouth. Hang on to it and let them let go of it on their own. Encourage them letting go by waving yummy treats in front of them. The act of “letting go,” getting rewarded and then getting the toy back increases their likelihood of learning to drop it on cue.

Click Points

- No clicking for this exercise

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