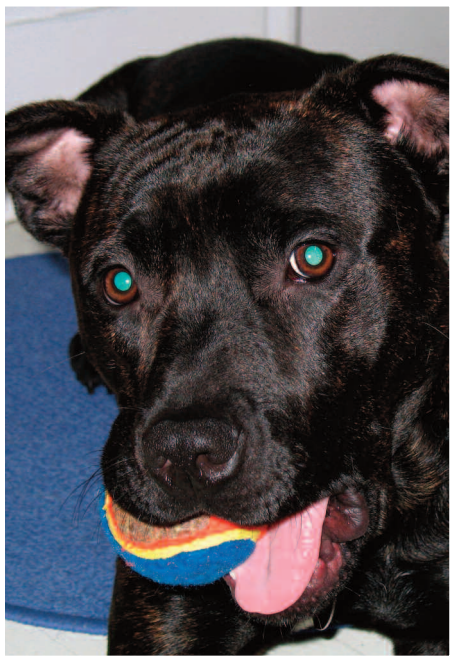


DROP IT OR OUT

THE COMMAND: “Drop It” means to drop whatever object is in their mouth.



HOW TO:

Try the proactive approach: whenever your dog has something in his mouth, use it as an opportunity to train “Drop It” by following these steps:

- Grab a treat in your left hand, but don’t let your dog see the treat.
- Put your right hand in front of your dog’s mouth or, if the object is large, put your hand on the object.
- Use your left hand to pop the treat directly into your dog’s mouth, behind the object. As you do this, say “Drop it”.
- Your dog will feel the treat in his mouth and, wanting to chew it, he’ll spit the object out into your hand. Your dog will be instantly rewarded with a treat that’s already in his mouth!
- Practice this technique often.
- Not only will your dog learn “drop it”, but he’ll look forward to having your hands near his mouth, because he’ll never know when to expect a surprise treat.

Tips and Troubleshooting:

Dogs are naturally inclined to explore the world with their mouths. They investigate by tasting (and sometimes eating) everything. This goes for appropriate things, like toys and treats, as well as potentially dangerous items, and even our favorite shoes.

To set dogs up for success, remove items that are dangerous or valuable from their reach by putting them in closets and cabinets. Manage their environment so that they do not have access to expensive sweaters or poisonous chemicals and you’ll prevent them from making a bad decision.

Playing tug, grabbing at the item, or scolding and chasing them will lead dogs to believe you’re playing a game and encourages them to play “keep away” with the item. If your dog does get a hold of an item you want them to drop, stay calm and trade the item for a treat, using the “out” technique. You can also hold a treat directly in front of their nose.

If your dog displays behaviors such as resource guarding, please consult a professional for help prior to using these training handouts.

