



Golden Rule Dog Training

Come. Learn. Play

Teach Your Dog to Drop It!

Does your dog run away from you with something in his mouth you don't want him to have? Don't chase him! This becomes a fun game for him that is hard to break later on; instead, start with "Trading"

1. Start with a toy, one your dog likes, but not his favorite to start with; something he will grab and want to hold onto.
2. Hold a few his favorite treats in your hand (such as, small pieces of cooked meat or cheese).
 - a. You can also trade a toy for another toy instead of treats, but food is usually a better motivator.
 - b. Encourage him to take the toy you're holding; you can add a cue such as "take it!"
3. Once he takes the toy, try to keep him focused by letting him see the treat.
4. **Say, "drop it" as he drops the toy for the treat (trade);** you may have to be quick, so be ready.

Hints:

- a. *Do not say "drop it" before your dog drops the toy, you have to say it as he drops the toy; you're teaching him what drop- it means.*
 - b. *He will have to let go of the toy in his mouth in order to take the treat.*
 - c. *You may have to hold the treat to his nose.*
 - d. *If he is not giving the toy up, you may need a better treat or less attractive toy.*
 - e. *If he runs away with the toy, try a "sit-stay" first, or try this when he's hungry.*
5. Then give him the treat and praise him, "good boy!"
 6. Repeat this several times over the course of a few days until he is reliably dropping the item for you.
 7. Next, raise the criteria (better toy and/or treats). The goal is for him to drop anything, even a nice juicy steak or the neighbor's cat.

Eventually you will be able to phase out the treats and just give him lots of praise.