

Training Exercise for New Lisbon Raisers

Prepared by John Fetters on April 29, 2020

THE DROP COMMAND

- Here are some ideas from the website, “The Dog People”
 - *One of the best things about teaching a dog to drop is that it’s playful. If your dog loves to play tug or to hold a ball in their mouth, you’re already ahead of the game.*
 - *Step 1: Trade your dog a toy for a treat.*
 - *During play, when your dog has a toy in their mouth, say the word “Drop!” then immediately pop a treat in their mouth (do not wait for them to open their mouth on their own). In order to eat the treat, the dog has to drop the item.*
 - *Wait for them to finish eating, then play again. Repeat at least five times.*
 - *Step 2* *When your dog has a toy, say “Drop!” and wait 2-3 seconds for their mouth to open. If they open it, mark the moment with the word “Yes!” then reward them with a treat.*
 - *If they don’t open their mouth, trade them for the toy by popping a treat in their mouth. Repeat, repeat, repeat.*
 - *Step 3* *Try the cue randomly when your dog isn’t in the middle of a play session.*
 - *The next time your dog has something in their mouth, ask them to “Drop!” When they do, praise the moment with a “yes” and reward them with a treat.*
 - *For Step 3, the object could be a toy or any other household item that doesn’t hold special value for your pup.*
 - *Resist the urge to chase your dog!*
 - *If your drop cue isn’t working, grab a treat. Slowly approach your pup and exchange a treat for the object.*
- Once your dog has mastered the “Drop” command you can introduce the D’s.
 - **Distance:** practice stepping farther away from your dog when giving the “drop” command. Praise and treat when they comply. See how far away you can be and have the dog still respond to the command.
 - **Distraction:** practice in a more distracting environment. IE: around other people, dogs, outside, etc. Praise and treat accordingly.
- For advanced training, combine the distance and distraction by giving your dog the “drop” command outside around other dogs and standing several feet away.
- Ideally, your dog will never pick up something they shouldn’t but if they do it is important that they know and respond to this command. There are numerous things inside and outside that are dangerous for dogs to eat (IE: socks, rags, Kleenex, dryer sheets, pills, magnets, chocolate, gum, onions, grapes, peach pits, sticks, rocks, etc) so knowing how to “drop” it could prevent a trip to the vet.