



## **LESSON: Leave It Criteria for Success:**

Timing: Be aware of the environment and cue “leave it” early in order to create adequate space from object.

Single Cue: Say, “leave it” one time and wait. If dog doesn’t disengage, make prompting noises.

Distance:

Things close= hard to leave it.

Things at a distance= easier to leave it

Reward Zone: When dog disengages, reward AWAY FROM the item.

History of Reinforcement: Have you consistently rewarded your cued Leave Its? Remember, reinforced behaviors increase and non-reinforced behaviors diminish.

Reward Value: Reward must be = or > value than the item you’re asking your dog to leave.

Repetitions: Dogs learn from successful reps. Has the dog had enough reps w/particular object?

Generalization- Practice leave it in a variety of settings AND leaving a variety of objects?

Blocking- You can help your dog by placing yourself between the dog and the item to body block for the first few repetitions of walking past an object with a loose leash.

Novelty: Dogs are curious about new things. It’s hard to leave an object that is new to your dog.

The goal is for you to be able to walk with a loose leash past an object your dog wants (garbage, road kill, goose poop). First, anchor the leash at your core and cue a “lets go”. Once you see the object, cue “leave it” one time. When dog disengages, mark and reward away from object. If dog disengages quickly and easily you could move closer to the object. If dog doesn’t disengage, you’re too close. Also troubleshoot the above.

