


Drop-It Cue

Steps

1. Be stocked with treats and if necessary, begin each game with the dog on a leash. Use a toy that has a short rope or thick string securely attached to it (there are many ready-made toys available).
2. Initiate the game of tug of war. You can do this by presenting the toy a few inches in front of their mouth so they can reach out to grab it. You may have to make the toy enticing by wiggling it around as you initiate playtime.
3. Play a short game of tug of war with the dog, then say “yes” and offer her a treat or another toy.
4. The moment before the dog releases the toy say “Drop It”. Once they release the toy, give them a reward and praise them lavishly.
5. Practice until the dog will release the toy on cue at least 90 percent of the time. Then proceed to only rewarding when the toy is in your hand or the fastest drop.



NOTE: Tug-of-War: Because most dogs find playing tug exciting, they might not want to stop; however, you can use the game to teach them self-control. If a dog refuses to let go of a tug toy, stop pulling on it and give her a high value treat or another toy so that she releases the tug. The moment she lets go of the tug toy, wiggles it around and starts another game. When a tug of war session is over, stop pulling on the toy and wait for them to drop it. When this happens, say “Yes’ and give them a treat. Now put the tug toy and any treats away.

Hand signal: Opening your hand.

Verbal Cue: “Drop it”/” Give”/”Release”.

