



Teaching 'Off & 'Take it''

This trick teaches the dog self-control about obtaining things he wants. It will teach him to take treats politely, help prevent snatching and can prevent and reduce guarding behaviours around food and objects.

How to do it:

1. Sit down on the floor opposite your dog & ask him to sit
2. Give your dog a treat.
3. Hold another up, but keep it held tightly between your thumb and finger with just a little bit sticking out. Say 'Off!' if moves to take it.
4. Allow your dog to lick, chew and paw at your hand, but ignore this behaviour.
5. Be patient and wait until you see a space appear between your hand and your puppy's nose, then feed the treats immediately. As he takes the treat say 'Take it!'
6. Repeat until your puppy learns that when you say 'off', he needs to take his face away to get the treat.
7. Practice this in several sessions until he will move his head away as soon as you say 'off'.
8. Gradually build up the time he can wait for until you can count to 10 before rewarding.
- 9.

Top tips!

- Keep your hand absolutely still when you say 'off'
- Give the treat as soon as you see a gap appear between your hand and your dog's nose
- Only say 'off' once each time and then keep quiet and wait for your dog to take his face away

This trick is also useful for getting your dog to drop or move away from objects or food you don't want him to have or that are dangerous.

However, if you use 'off!' and remove the object/ food entirely you MUST reward the dog with an equal or better treat/ toy etc, otherwise he will learn that 'off!' can mean that he will be denied something – and there's nothing in it for him.