

It's Yer Choice

Level 2: Ignore Food on the Floor

Purpose:

The goal of this exercise is to build the dog's skill in ignoring food (and ultimately other inappropriate objects). Progress slowly to the goal of placing food on the floor a few feet from the dog. Use low value food at first and shape in small increments so the dog is never tempted to grab the food. If the dog seems unable to resist the food, review It's Yer Choice Level 1.

Dog Skills

Self control
Offer behaviour
Respond to a cue
Give attention

People Skills

Shaping
Reinforcement
Cueing

IF the item is something the dog CANNOT have (or is EXTREMELY low value), reinforce with a very high value food from the opposite hand. As the dog's skill increases, you may wish to alternate how you reinforce, sometimes reward from the other hand and sometimes pick the food up and give it to him with a 'take it' cue....only once in awhile allow the dog to eat from the floor (with the cue 'take it' of course).

Steps:

1. Warm up with a couple of Level 1 IYC. Have the piece of food in an open palm. Give the "mine" cue, then move the hand with the food closer to the dog. If the dog backs or turns away from the food, say "take it," and give it the treat with the opposite hand.
2. Position yourself a few feet from the dog, give the "mine" cue, and slowly lower the food toward the ground. When the dog hesitates and/or looks at you, cue "take it," and give it the treat with the opposite hand. Repeat this step until the dog is reliably ignoring the food in your hand at floor level.
3. Now begin to place the food on the floor a few feet from the dog, and move your hand away before giving the "take it" cue. During this step, you can allow the dog to eat from the floor, or you can pick up the food and deliver it to him food.

Click Points

None, 'take it' replaces the click

Good for developing these other behaviours:

It's Yer Choice Levels 3 – 4. Ignore inappropriate food or objects that are dropped on the ground or floor, or encountered outside the home; take treats nicely; wait with anticipation (useful in dog sports and working dog skills); redirect from distraction. It's Yer Choice can be played in many ways, please speak to your instructor about how to use it even more to increase self control.

At home fun:

Try these steps with a favorite toy: place the toy on the floor in front of the dog and give the cue "mine." If the dog looks at you instead of the toy, say "take it" and reinforce by tossing or tugging on the toy. Or try it with a higher value food and reinforce by picking up the tasty treat and delivering it to the dog.