



DROP

The Practice

- You may choose to attach your dog to a leash and have them trail it if they often play the 'keep away' game from you.
- Load yourself up with high value treats (higher value than dry biscuits or kibble).
- Don't let your dog know that you have treats until you have begun this exercise.
- Begin tossing toys for your dog, encouraging them to get the toy.
- Ask the dog to come to you / go to them and put your hand on their toy. Do not pull on the toy. Keep your hand (holding the toy) as still as possible.
- Take a high value treat (or two) with your other hand, placing it in front of your dog's nose. Direct your dog to DROP as you place the treat at their nose.
- Continue to say the direction in 3-10 second intervals while maintaining a calm tone.
- At no point should you attempt to pry the dog's mouth open or escalate your vocal tone.
- Do not take your hand off of the toy until your dog has successfully dropped it (after you've instructed them to do so).
- Once your dog drops the toy, feed your dog the treat(s) with one hand while picking the toy up in your other.
- As soon as your dog takes the treats (and drops the toy) encourage them to take the toy again with an upbeat TAKE IT or GET IT! Your immediate 'rewards' for dropping the toy will encourage your dog to drop the toy quickly.
- Be sure to give your dog lots of praise for a job well done!
- Once your dog is dropping their toy more readily as you grab hold of it, begin to ween the treats down to every other repetition, to every third and so on.
- As your dog improves with their command responsiveness – begin to increase the time between your drop and get it commands.
- ALWAYS load your dog up in praise each time they drop their toy.

Support:

Our Behaviour Support Team can help to provide resources and tips if you experience concerns in the home environment. With your adoption the GTHS will provide an over the phone consultation in order to provide you with tips and resources to set your new dog up for success. In all cases of dog adoptions, the GTHS recommends hiring a professional dog training or behavioural consultant to ensure your relationship with your new dog starts off on the right paw! A list of local trainers is enclosed in your adoption package.

Our Behaviour Support Team can be reached at behaviour@gths.ca

Georgian Triangle Humane Society

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