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# What to do when your dog does a grab and run

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If your dog likes to grab things and won't return them to you, you probably end up playing a not so fun game of keep away with him. When a dog steals an item, the item automatically becomes more valuable than any other item your dog regularly has access too. And if you chase your dog to get the item back they might actually be enjoying the interaction even if you aren't. Here are some tips on teach your dog to give you things when you ask for them.

## **Teach your dog to trade**

When your dog has something that you want, you will need to find something that is equal or greater value to trade him. As mentioned before, stolen items are more valuable than regular items so if you have some really yummy treats or a special brand new toy he hasn't seen yet. You can also offer to trade items with your dog when he has something that he hasn't stolen just to practice this trade game. The goal of trade is to teach your dog that if he gives you something you will give him something equal or better in exchange. This will make your dog more likely to want to give you things that he has found rather than running away from you so you don't take them.

## **Teach your dog to come to you when you call him**

If your dog runs away from you when he has an item it could be really helpful to teach him to come to you rather than going away. When teaching dogs to come when called it is really helpful to have a doggy cookie jar stationed in an easy to get to place such as your kitchen or living room. Anytime you are up and around in that area, call your dog to you and give him a treat from the cookie jar. Your dog will very quickly learn that if you call him to that area he is going to get something great! After you have practiced this with your dog (it takes about 100 times before a dog will understand a cue like this), when your dog grabs something that you want to get back from him, go to the cookie jar and call him to you. Your dog will be more likely to drop the item and come running to get his treat. While he is eating his treat you can retrieve the stolen goods. After your dog gets the hang of this game, all you will have to do is call your dog to you to get the item back.

Never scold your dog after he comes to you no matter how much you dislike the behavior - this will only teach him that he might be in trouble when he comes to you or, at the very least, he may not know exactly what to expect if he comes to you. This will only make teaching your dog to come when called harder for you.

For behavior and training advice, please contact Operation Kindness at [behavior@operationkindness.org](mailto:behavior@operationkindness.org) or visit [www.operationkindness.org/training](http://www.operationkindness.org/training).