

Dog Training Articles By Beth Bradley

DROP IT

Teaching your dog to drop something in his mouth may save his life one day. Most dogs are scavengers and you never know what they will pick up when walking. Dogs by nature do not want to give anything up but if the “Alpha” dog wants it, the “Alpha” (i.e. you) should get it. Begin teaching this exercise w/ toys and bones. As the dog has the bone in its mouth, stand up straight and give the command ‘drop’. Do not attempt to reach for the bone or tug it from his mouth, you’ll lose. If he does not release the bone correct him as you would for a ‘sit’ command. The correction should be hard enough to cause his mouth to open. When the bone drops from his mouth praise him and pull him away from the bone. Give him the ‘sit/stay’ command and pick up the object. If your dog believes you are his ‘alpha’ or leader he will willingly give something up to you. Remember that the ‘Alpha’ dog only has to walk towards the carcass for the rest of the pack to scatter.

If your dog doesn’t want to release it is because he doesn’t feel you are his ‘alpha’. If he were living in a pack the ‘alpha’ dog would severely punish him for his disrespect.