



Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

Ultimate Leave It

PURPOSE: To improve a dog's ability to remain safe in his environment and strengthen the relationship between a dog and their parent/handler in situations involving food or treats, animals, toys or danger. These goals are met using impulse control, indirect access exercises and positive reinforcement. This creates an advantage for performing a solid, reliable and fluent leave-it for badges with this requirement. Though this badge stands on its own, it is designed to work hand in hand with the Rock Solid Recall badge as both are critical skills that need to be developed and worked on throughout the dog's life.

DOG REQUIREMENTS: Dog must demonstrate his ability to perform a leave it when challenged with a variety of situations that test the dog's ability to make intelligent choices. These situations show the dog's ability to learn and understand their handler's direction, both using cued and implied scenarios.

HANDLER REQUIREMENTS: Handler must understand and demonstrate incremental training techniques for a fluent leave it. They will execute these steps to train their dog, describe how they successfully completed their steps and be able to assist others with this information. They may also include natural tendencies for their particular breed and individual dog. By working to earn this badge with the dog, the handler agrees to commit to life-long practice of the required skills.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: High-value and low-value treats, toys and live or animatronic animals. Any type of bowl, platform or mat that might be useful for training. Short, medium and long lines. When a line is used, it should not be tightened to direct the dog. A flat collar, limited-slip (martingale) or harness. A fenced in area may be used for safety.

PROCESS: The instructor/evaluator will create or help the handler to create situations where the dog demonstrates the behaviors as required. All scenarios used must be as close as possible to those that the dog/handler team will encounter in their daily lives. The instructor/evaluator makes the final determination if the situations used are true to life and may make adjustments as necessary. The only situation that is set up artificially is the recall gauntlet, set to specifications described. Handler may not block access during any of the required exercises either directly or indirectly, including using body posture or positioning as a deterrent.

ALLOWED:

- ☐ A flat or limited-slip (martingale) or walking harness
- ☐ High and Low-value treats
- ☐ Toys
- ☐ Live animals that are safely handled
- ☐ Animatronic animals or toy animals that are used with a tug
- ☐ Mats or platforms for a "stay" during training only

NOT ALLOWED:

- ☐ Never tease dog
- ☐ No aversive actions
- ☐ No leave-it subject animals should ever be in danger of stress or injury
- ☐ No use of any drugs or toxic foods as leave it items