



# Redirection of Inappropriate Behavior

(a.k.a. Social Distancing and The Positive Interrupt)

“Watch Me”, “Leave It” and “Come” are all very helpful words when out on a stroll with your dog. By combining these cues you can help your pet stay calm with all types of distractions. However, many owners forget how to use those 3-little-phrases when faced with their over-excited dog. Here is another way to keep your pet relaxed and his focus on YOU.

- A. Install the Cue: Use the phrase, “Hey! Over Here”, then feed your dog a tasty treat. Say these words with a happy, confident voice, not as a severe command or in a nervous tone. (Remember, you want your dog to think this phrase means really, really good things happen.) Repeat this until your dog clearly looks delighted when he hears that phrase.
- B. Add movement: As soon as you say “Hey”, move away from your dog two or three steps as you say “Over Here”. Toss the treat on the ground near you and praise your dog as he eats it. Do this until the dog turns and starts toward you when he hears the “Hey”.
- C. Add direction: Practice moving with your dog straight ahead, to the sides, and diagonally in either direction. Practice right-angle moves and about-turns (180-degree turn). Help your dog to follow your movement everywhere you go, all the while keeping eye contact with YOU.
- D. Add low level distractions: Wait until your dog is sniffing, wandering around a room or finding something mildly interesting. Do your “Hey! Over Here” routine. Gradually move into more intense distractions as your dog’s response becomes stronger. (NOTE: At each level of distraction, your dog’s response will weaken and you will have to build it back up to automatic.)
- E. Phase out the Food: As your dog gets better at his response to the cue, occasionally use verbal praise in place of a food reward. Over a period of time (while continuing to receive good response from your pet) phase out the use of food completely. The goal is to have your dog perform this action, consistently without food reward.
- F. Use the Cue: Your pet now has mastered this skill and you can use it to interrupt barking, rushing toward people or other dogs (no matter what his intention), and for general control. This is also a good tool to redirect your dog before he jumps on people. He will learn that he can visit with your permission and with all his feet on the ground. Keep in mind, your dog needs permission from you to have the freedom he enjoys.

**The key is to move your pet AWAY from the thing he wants or is responding to.  
Remember, where the dog’s head goes the body will follow.**

## Variations:

- You can teach your dog to touch your hand with his nose instead of throwing food on the ground. The command word can be “Touch” or “Hand”. Practice with your hand in various positions, including while walking with our dog alongside of you. Good for dogs that have strong eye contact with other dogs and/or have a strong prey/play drive.
- Follow steps A and B - EXCEPT - toss the treat in the air (rather than on the ground). The dog should be encouraged to catch the treat before it hits the ground. This works for dogs that track movement well and like play. (Small toy can be substituted for food).

## Recommended Video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SwukBkDASw&feature=youtu.be&utm\\_source=Berkeley+Humane&utm\\_campaign=98d6c4146e-EMAIL\\_videotrainingtipsnancy1\\_40820&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_1cda0e6b1a-98d6c4146e-271868865&mc\\_cid=98d6c4146e&mc\\_eid=7cf808fac3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SwukBkDASw&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=Berkeley+Humane&utm_campaign=98d6c4146e-EMAIL_videotrainingtipsnancy1_40820&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1cda0e6b1a-98d6c4146e-271868865&mc_cid=98d6c4146e&mc_eid=7cf808fac3)