

Park It

What does the behavior look like?

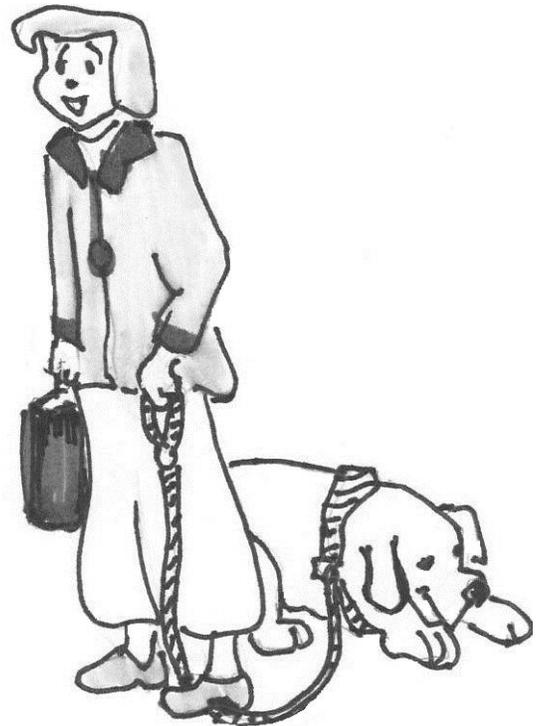
Dogs benefit from understanding when the conversation is about them and when they are off duty. When you stop and talk to other humans on a walk – giving a dog a clear bit of information that he is not working right now – the dog is relieved of the stress of trying to figure out what he should be doing and the handler is relieved of having to focus on the dog.

Why should we learn it?

The thoughtful use of “Park It” prevents dogs from jumping up on other people. For the more fearful dog, it provides a break from humans forcing interactions. In a classroom setting, “Park It” can be used while a teacher provides a demonstration. This behavior allows the human to focus on the teacher while the dog is on a break.

Training:

1. While holding your dog’s lead, go down the length of it until you reach his collar or harness.
2. Hold the collar or harness lightly.
3. Cue or say “Park It” and place a loop of the lead on the ground, step on the slack while still holding the loop at the end. Make sure your dog can stand, but not move forward.
4. Turn slightly away from your dog and shift your hips so your weight is more on one hip than the other – this is a cue.
5. Prevent people from interacting with your dog while he is in a “Park It.”
6. Touch your dog’s collar or harness and release him from the “Park It.”
7. Step off the slack of the lead and start focusing again on your dog.



Troubleshooting:

- Avoid cueing any specific behavior while your dog is in a “Park It.” He can choose the position he would like to maintain. What he cannot do is move forward. Allowing your dog to choose a position is reinforcing.
- This behavior can also be done while the handler is sitting down in a chair.
- While in a “Park It”, you can step slightly in front of your dog to prevent people from encroaching on his space.

Training Resources:

Marin Humane's **Behavior & Training** conducts various training classes. Sign up on our [Behavior & Training](#) page for the next available class series.

We also provide **Dog Training Instructors** and **Consultants** available for private training or consultations (on-site or in-home) at 415.506.6280 or OhBeHAVE@MarinHumane.org.

Remember to license your dog (It's the LAW)! If your dog gets lost, a license tag on your dog's collar is the fastest way to reunite you and your dog. Even if your dog is microchipped, a license tag is immediately visible and doesn't require a scanning device to read. For more information about licensing, microchipping, and other services provided by **Marin Humane**, visit us at MarinHumane.org or stop by at 171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd, Novato, CA.