



## HUMANE SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY

### Intermediate Obedience for Dogs

#### Handout #4

##### Impulse Control and Corrective Cues

**“Off”** – This cue is a must. “Off” means to get off what ever he is on (the couch, you, the neighbor’s cat). When your dog is on something he should not be, toss a small treat on the floor, point to it and say “Off”. When your dog jumps off to retrieve the treat tell him “Good dog”. If used consistently this cue is learned quickly and can be used easily. Remember to use “off”, not “down” or “get down”. “Down” is another cue you are already using to instruct your dog to lie down.

**“Leave it”** – You will use this cue to stop your dog as he approaches something you do not want him to (a dead frog you come across during your evening walk). If used consistently this cue will be quickly learned and used easily. It is important to remember realistic expectations. If the target of your dog’s interest is a high value item (pork chop bone) you need to be pro active and be prepared to restrain, redirect and remove the item quickly. Complete “leave it” training instructions are on the Tricks and Other Fun Things handout. You may also go to our web page [www.humanebroward.com](http://www.humanebroward.com) to download it.

**“Drop it”** – If your dog has something in his mouth this cue will instruct him to spit it out or “drop it”. This cue can be a life saver. If your pet has an item that could be dangerous if ingested it is important to get it away from him quickly. Most dogs will enjoy a rousing game of keep away. He has a sock in his mouth and then you proceed to chase him around the house and the yard to try and get it away from him. Don’t start this bad habit! Teaching and using a good reliable “drop it” cue will eliminate the need to chase your dog and reinforce appropriate play behaviors. When playing fetch use this cue to have your dog relinquish the toy for another toss. If a particular game has become over arousing and your pet needs to take a break use the cue to remove the toy and engage in something less stimulating. You can always come back to the game later once your dog has calmed down. It is important to remember realistic expectations. If the target of your dog’s interest is a high value item (pork chop bone) you need to be pro active and be prepared to restrain, redirect and remove the item quickly. Complete “drop it” training instructions are on the Tricks and Other Fun Things handout. You may also go to our web page [www.humanebroward.com](http://www.humanebroward.com) to download it.