



How & When to Use an Emergency Lure

Introduction

There are times when we are out and about with our puppies and we encounter a situation that our puppy is not ready to deal with, but we need to get from A to B quickly (so we don't have time to work on loose leash walking and ignoring distractions), safely, and without drama.

In these situations, the Emergency Lure is a management technique we can use to prevent our puppies practicing distracted behavior in public by luring them past tempting distractions. The preferred approach is to avoid situations that your puppy is not ready to cope with, but this doesn't always happen in reality! So, if you do need to move quickly through a situation with your puppy focused on you and food rather than engaging with a distraction, or being physically manhandled, this is a great tool to use.

Some examples of situations where you might use the Emergency Lure:

- 🐾 You are out walking in your neighborhood and the neighbor with the badly behaved dog is approaching.
- 🐾 You are in a store and Crazy Mall Lady is making a beeline for your puppy.
- 🐾 There's something unpleasant for you, but potentially delicious for your puppy, on the ground and you don't have a reliable "Leave It" yet.
- 🐾 You have arrived late to class and want to sneak in quietly.
- 🐾 You are out and about somewhere, and the situation unexpectedly becomes overwhelming for your puppy.
- 🐾 You are out and about with your puppy and, despite going for a break beforehand, they are doing the potty dance.
- 🐾 You are at a concert, a play, church etc and your puppy decides to provide some vocal entertainment.

What Does The Emergency Lure Look Like?

It's super easy! All you do is take a small handful of treats from your treat bag, preferably including some higher level treats, (and this is a good reason to have a treat "trail mix" in your treat bag at all times), hold your treat hand on your puppy's nose, and calmly walk with them while dispensing the treats like you are a Pez Dispenser. A small, squeezable bottle containing peanut butter is also a great alternative to have on hand for this. Don't mark while you are walking, but you can give your puppy verbal praise and encouragement.

Of course, if your puppy is still small enough to pick up, this is another option, but only in "we need to leave right now" situations!

Other Useful Resources

Video - The Emergency Lure