

The Rolling Ice Cube Mystery



TAP
THE
POSSIBILITIES

Can you train an ice cube to roll over?

Try this.

Have an adult help you fill a bowl with hot water.

Gently place an ice cube in the water and let it float to the top.

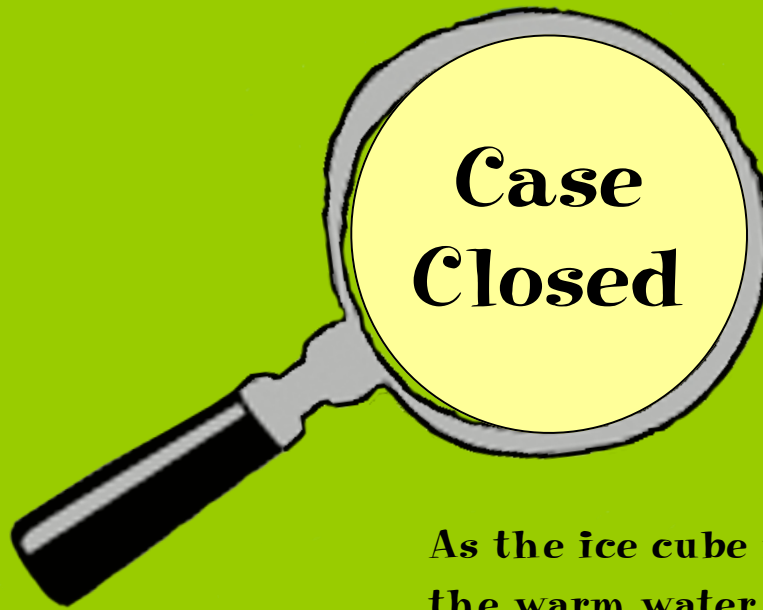
Don't touch it.

Wait a little while and the ice cube will roll over.

Then, it will roll over again, just like a trained puppy.

But the reason has nothing to do with obedience school.

So what's going on?



Case Closed

As the ice cube floats in the warm water, its bottom side melts. This makes its top side heavier. So, the top side goes down and the cube flips over. The warm water melts the new bottom, and the same thing happens all over again. The ice cube gets smaller and smaller, until it melts completely.