



Tips for Appropriate *Dog Etiquette*



Dogs need order and leadership from their "pack leader," which means that proper dog etiquette starts with you. Bark Busters has compiled a list of some essential tips to help you practice good dog etiquette both inside and outside the home!

At Home

For the safety and security of your dog, neighbours and passers-by, your unsupervised dog should always stay on your property. If your dog is left alone, keep them in a safe location where they can neither do any harm nor be harmed.

Do not let your dog toilet on your neighbour's lawn or garden. If they do leave a mess, clean it up right away.

Do not allow your dog to bark uncontrollably at or jump on visitors. Remember, if they are out of control in your home, they will no doubt be more so in public.

If your dog is a nuisance barker, keep them indoors when you're not at home. If they bark when you are at home, learn ways to manage their barking to help you enjoy a quieter home.

Do not let your dog jump onto the table or countertops where food is prepared or served. Besides the risk of them getting sick from eating foods that are not good for them (e.g., chocolate), you, too, run the risk of illness—a dog's paws are far from sanitary.

In Public

Keep your dog under control when outdoors by keeping them on a lead or under your voice control. Even if you live where it is legal to allow your dog off lead, you should supervise their whereabouts and behaviour at all times.

Always supervise your dog when around children. Children are at least three times more likely than adults to be seriously bitten by a dog (of any breed), and kids under the age 15 are the most at risk of being bitten by a dog.

Pick up after your dog. Keep plastic bags with you at all times for doggy clean-ups, no matter where they occur.

If you have a dog that drools, keep a towel handy to clean up his slobber on people or things.

When meeting hikers or runners on a trail, step to the side to give them space to get by you.

Make sure your dog is invited by the host before bringing him to a party, even an outdoor gathering or picnic.

Supervise greetings between your dog and a strange person or dog:

- If you have a very friendly dog, do not let them approach every person you meet. Not everyone likes or is comfortable with dogs.
- When meeting a stranger, avoid putting tension on the lead, which may put your dog on alert to be wary. Keep an eye on your dog's body language, but stay relaxed.
- If a stranger wants to pet your dog, tell him to let your dog approach him, rather than having him approach your dog.
- If your dog seems uncomfortable with greeting another dog or person, never force the meeting. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

As you teach your dog proper etiquette, set firm ground rules and apply them calmly and consistently. With lavish praise for his good behaviour, your dog will quickly learn what is acceptable and what is not. Your efforts will be richly rewarded as they will help to build a positive bond between you and your dog.

This information is brought to you as a public service by Bark Busters Home Dog Training—the world's largest, most trusted dog training company. Bark Busters is the only international dog training company that offers guaranteed lifetime support. Find out more information by contacting your local dog behavioural therapist at 0800 167 710 or by visiting www.BarkBusters.co.nz

