

People Manners for Dogs

We all want polite dogs. We want them to behave well in public and at home. However, dog manners and people manners are different.

Most dogs know dog manners. They learn them from their mother and other dogs. However, people must teach dogs to understand people manners. For example, puppies learn that it is good dog manners to jump up and lick an adult dog's face. If we don't want our dogs to jump on us and lick our faces, we must show them how to act around people. The easiest way to do this is by teaching them games like Polite Puppy on page 36.

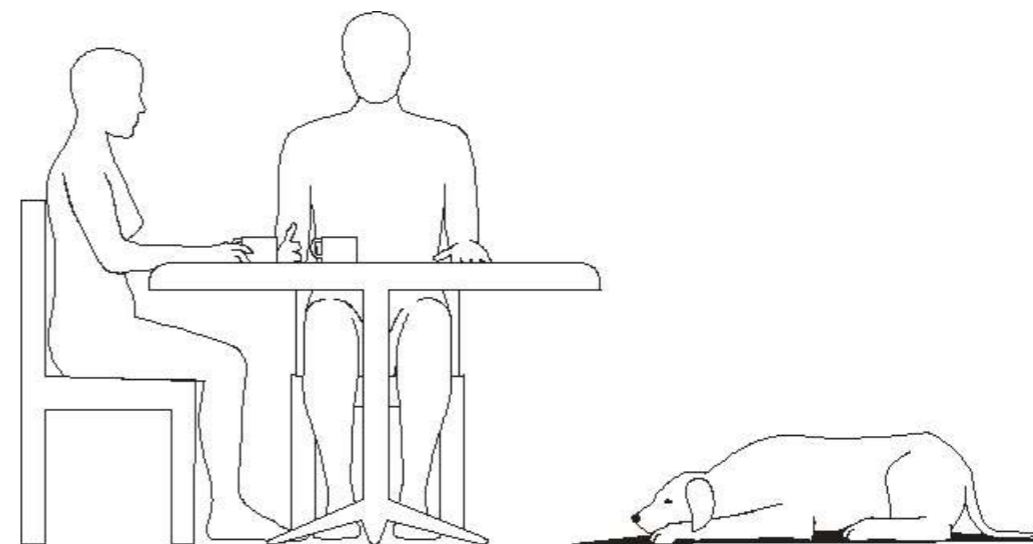
Eye contact is another example. In dog manners staring directly at another dog is not polite. Yet we want our dogs to look directly at us (see page 32).

Learning people manners is important for all dogs that live with humans. Clicker trainer Sue Ailsby explains the importance of teaching good manners this way: "Training does not limit a dog, training frees a dog. My dog is not limited because she does what I tell her. She is free: Free to ride with me, free to walk with me, free to meet people, free to run off lead in the park, free to play with other dogs. The untrained dog is 'free' to sit in the backyard all by itself."

We teach our dogs people manners the same way he learned his doggie manners: With Positive consequences. This simply means your dog must figure out how to earn a reward from you. For example, if I want to teach "Go to your mat," I click and give him a reward for lying calmly on his mat. The

reward could be a treat, a bone, or favorite toy. He will quickly figure out that "good things happen when I stay on this mat."

On the following pages you will find a variety of ways to show your canine companion basic people manners. Experiment with the different lessons to find the ones that work best for you and your dog. Be sure to have fun and reward both yourself and your dog for learning.



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Only the
educated
are free

--Epictetus