



Say Please

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Dogs are willing to ask for the things that they want. If we do not teach them how to ask politely, they may ask by jumping, barking, mouthing, chewing, pulling on leash, or counter surfing.

What is Say Please?

Teaching your dog to “say please” is a way of living with your dog that creates trust and confidence. Anything that your dog wants, including food, toys, attention, getting to go outside, putting the leash on, etc., they should learn how to ask politely. Teaching a dog to sit when they want something is a great way to avoid them trying impolite behavior to get what they want.

How to practice Say Please:

1. Teach your dog to sit.
2. Ask your dog to sit before they get their meals, get pets, go outside, etc.
3. If your dog brings you a toy, ask them to sit before taking the toy, playing fetch, or playing tug.
4. If your dog demands anything with behavior that you do not like, ignore him, and ask him to sit. Wait for him to sit and then give him something that he wants. If demanding behavior has worked in the past, don't be surprised if he tries harder to get your attention using these behaviors before he learns to ask politely.
5. Be consistent! If sometimes jumping or barking gets your attention and sometimes sitting gets your attention, the dog will likely try any of these behaviors.
6. Remember to be proactive instead of only reactive. If your dog is doing something that you like, praise him and give him rewards. Don't just wait until your dog is doing something you don't want to give him feedback.

For behavior and training advice, please contact Operation Kindness at behavior@operationkindness.org or visit www.operationkindness.org/training.