

# The Dog Dialogue

from Pawsitive Manners



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Positive Methods. Positive Outcomes.

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## Fearful of the Veterinarian

Make sure your puppy or dog likes or at least accepts being touched. Handle your puppy or dog's paws, mouth, ears etc. and make it a pleasurable experience by pairing it with something your dog loves, such as food.

Take your dog to the veterinarian but not for a procedure. Have the receptionists, vet techs and veterinarians give your dog his favorite food or toy and build up a pleasant association with their presence.

Try to stay with your dog as much as possible for procedures. There might be procedures that have to be done away from you but you will give your dog much more confidence if you are there to comfort him.

Ask the vet techs get a non slip mat for the floor or table. Most examination tables are metal and slippery. This makes dogs very uncomfortable.

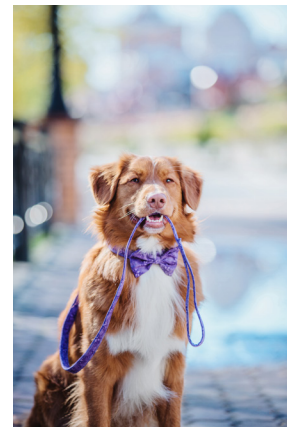
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## LIVING WITH DOGS

### Walking With Class

Most of us share the spaces we walk in with many others—people with and without dogs, dog walkers, cyclists, runners, horseback riders, etc. In all interactions with others on trails and sidewalks, think of yourself as an ambassador, representing dogs and their people everywhere. The more people who are pro dog, the better for all of us who love the four-legged family members and want to enjoy access to local parks, trailheads, and beaches. Here are five guidelines for getting walk etiquette right:



**No uninvited people greetings.** Not everyone finds dogs adorable. Hard to believe, I know, but nonetheless true. However charming, friendly, and utterly unafraid of your dog is, don't let him greet other people unless they have invited the interaction.

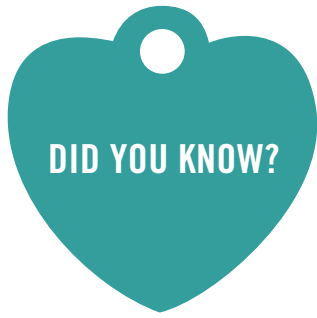
**No uninvited dog greetings, either.** No matter whether another dog is on or off leash, don't let your dog run up and greet the newcomer without asking first. He might not be the social kind.

**Build and maintain a strong recall.** Don't let your dog off leash unless you have him under good voice control. Don't have it? Fret not; you don't have to give up on the many joys and benefits of off-leash walks. Even older dogs can be taught a solid recall using positive reinforcement training methods.

**Ask before you treat.** A diet, allergies, a sensitive stomach, next-day surgery—you never know what you risk upsetting when you offer that cookie without asking another dog's guardian.

**Always pick up after your dog.** Compelling sanitary and environmental reasons support being a conscientious picker-upper, even when nobody's watching. And if you occasionally remove what someone else left behind, well, that's just good karma.

"Reinforce what you like, Redirect what you don't"



### These Canine Hearing Facts?

**High frequency.** Dogs can hear significantly higher frequency sounds than humans (although cats take the prize in that department). In the dead of night, for example, dogs can hear the high-frequency crystal resonator inside your digital alarm clock.

**Superior muscle control.** Our ears can barely twitch. Dog ears move independently of each other and are operated by 18 muscles that allow them to tilt, rotate, and stand straight up.

**Shaped for sound.** Unlike our super-short ear canals, dogs have long, L-shaped canals. This makes a dog's ear an instrument finely tuned to interpret sound. It also makes it difficult to clean and as such prone to infections and parasites.



## A WORLD OF DOGS

### The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Canines

What is it about dogs that makes them so adorable and fun to have around? It's not like they help with the housework, do the shopping, or pay their share of the utility bills. Mostly, they warn off hapless postmen and passers-by, or laze around doing zip. So how do they draw us into their thrall and hold us there like besotted groupies, making us feed them, groom them, walk them, play with them, clean up after them, and rub their bellies? It boils down to seven habits:



**Habit 1: Doe-Eyed Dog.** The plaintive look we get when Fido has turned a pair of brand new shoes into a patchwork doily—and sees our expression. Such is the compelling power of this look that it melts human resistance. You ruined my best shoes? Oh come here, all is forgiven.

**Habit 2: Sit, Roll, Stay.** We think we're clever because we've taught them a few rudimentary behaviors. We call it training. They call it humoring mom and dad to get free rent and board all the days of their lives.

**Habit 3: Shake My Paw.** The classic raising of a paw as if wanting to shake hands. We oblige, little realizing Fido is employing a neurolinguistic programming technique designed to make us go weak at the knees whenever that paw comes near us.

**Habit 4: The Loveable Nut.** Whether it's chasing tails or racing around the backyard post-bath, dogs know how to bring the cute. (Likelihood is, they're laughing at us. They know if we carried on like that, we'd be institutionalized.)

**Habit 5: The Mind Reader.** The remarkably accurate human-emotion radar that somehow always tells dogs when we feel down, so they can do something extra cute.

**Habit 6: So Happy Together.** Who can resist the emotional ticker-tape parade dogs throw when we return after leaving the house for a mere five minutes?

**Habit 7: Miss You Already.** The slumped, ears-down, why-are-you-doing-this-to-me look by which dogs communicate that leaving the house sans your furry friend is tantamount to cruelty.

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Take tasty treats with you and give them to your dog while you are waiting. If your dog is too stressed he might not feel like eating.

If your dog likes being touched give him a massage to relax him. Long, gentle strokes should bring down his stress levels.

Be calm because the more stressed you are the more your dog will feel it.



## DOGS IN ACTION

### Agility For All

Think agility is only for serious dog sports enthusiasts willing to spend every weekend on the obstacle course? Think again. Agility can be enjoyed at any level—all the way from the World Championships to low-key backyard training—and you and your dog still reap the many benefits of this fun, bond-building dog sport.



For example:

- Dogs of all sizes and breeds can participate in and enjoy agility. Yes, Border Collies and Australian Shepherds excel at it, but titleholders also include Yorkies, Papillons, Spaniels, Boxers, and mutts, too!
- You can work the obstacle course at the pace that's right for you, meaning agility can provide gentle, moderate, or strenuous exercise.
- Training your dog to navigate agility obstacles using only hand signals and voice cues is a terrific way to improve communication—and further strengthen the bond between you.
- Best of all? The fun you'll have together and the confidence boost you'll likely see in your dog. Mastering those tricky jumps, forging through a tunnel for the first time, figuring out what you're asking of her—these are all thrilling experiences to a dog.



## HEALTHY DOG

### Be Quick to Treat Dry Eye

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS), better known as “dry eye,” is a common eye condition in dogs. Any dog can develop dry eye, but dogs with big, buggy eyes, such as Pugs, Lhasa Apsos, Pekingese, Boston Terriers, Cocker Spaniels, and English Bulldogs, are extra susceptible. Symptoms include irritation, goopy discharge, excessive blinking, swollen eyelids, and corneal color changes. The condition, which can have numerous causes, results in an inability to produce enough tears to provide nutrients and oxygen to the precorneal tear film.

The good news is that most of these causes can be treated on an outpatient basis, often with a topical antibiotic or corticosteroid. The less-good news is that there's no cure for most causes of dry eye, so your dog will need ongoing treatment. The first thing to do about any eye-related problem is always to call your vet.

## DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Boston Terrier

The Boston Terrier story began in 1875 when Robert C. Hooper of Boston bought a bull terrier-type dog named Judge, who then mated with Hooper's bulldog-type dog Kate. Their pups were the first step toward today's loveable Boston Terrier.

Originally bred to eradicate barn rats, these personable little dogs quickly became favored as family companions. Nowadays Bostons are known for their success in all manner of dog sports, from common pursuits like agility and Rally-O to lesser-known activities like flyball, lure coursing, and dock diving.

The Boston's big personality also makes the breed popular beyond the home. Bostons serve as mascot to two universities and a whole U.S. state. A Boston named Sergeant Stubby (no doubt a reference to the breed's short tail) was awarded war medals of honor by both the United States and France for service in WWI. And Lili Chin made her blue-eyed Boston Boogie famous as the model for her brilliant canine body language illustrations.

To share your home with a Boston search online for a terrier rescue organization near you.



## My Big Announcement

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### How To Prevent Car Sickness

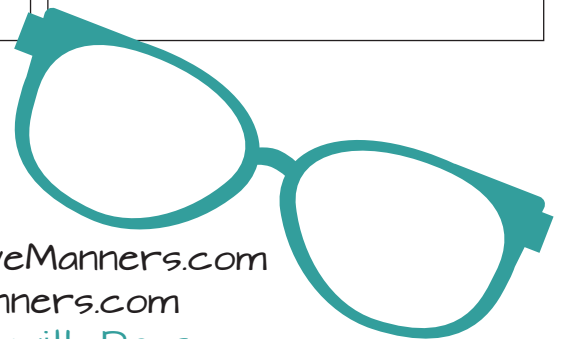
Car travel is our favorite way to travel with dogs: Every year, dog lovers by the tens of millions take their dogs on car trips of 50 miles or longer. But a carsick dog can spoil the joy of travel for canine and human passengers alike. To prevent or minimize motion sickness in your dog, try these tips:

- Feed your dog a light meal three to four hours before your departure time.
- Try limiting your dog's view of the outside if that's something that makes the dog more nervous.
- Keep the car cool and well ventilated. Cracking a window can help, too.
- Ask your vet about motion sickness aids. If medicating your dog concerns you, look into the many natural options on the market.



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