



Behavior Help Say Please...

Say Please

Many dogs display rude or pushy behaviors that are frustrating to owners: jumping up for attention, bouncing around when it's time to put the leash on, nudging your hand or pawing at you to get petting and attention. The "Say Please" method is a non-confrontational way of teaching your dog polite ways to get the great things he or she wants from you without the pushy behavior. It also makes you the source of all good things for your dog, making your bond stronger.

How to Teach:

Before giving your dog anything he or she likes (food, throwing a toy, putting the leash on, petting), ask the dog to perform a previously trained behavior such as "sit" or "down." As your dog learns more behaviors, you can ask for those, too!

If your dog does not offer the requested behavior and they do something pushy instead, ignore the incorrect behavior and do not give them the good thing. If they offer the correct behavior, immediately give them the good thing and praise them!

Example: Feeding Time

- 🐾 At meal time stand a little back from your dog and, before you put your dog's food down on the ground, ask him to "sit".
- 🐾 If he sits, immediately say "yes" in a happy voice and lower the food bowl. If he jumps up and moves toward the bowl, lift it back up.
- 🐾 Ask for him to "sit" again. If he does not, repeat the cue once more and wait. If he sits, lower the food bowl. If he does not, place the food bowl on the counter or in another spot out of his reach and walk away from your dog for about 30 seconds.
- 🐾 After 30 seconds, come back and try again. Repeat the above sequence until your dog remains sitting while you place the bowl down.

It is important to *be patient* when you first ask this. It might take several attempts before your dog begins to get the concept and it will take several meal times doing this before he really understands and is offering the behavior consistently.