

Learn to Earn

A Basic Outline for House Manners

Common House Rules for Creating a Calm Dog

Dogs thrive on structure, and the "Learn to Earn" game turns daily moments into training opportunities. Instead of getting things for free, they earn privileges through calm behavior and manners. This builds impulse control, strengthens your bond, and helps prevent common behavior issues. Whether it's food, attention, or going through doors, patience gets them what they want faster than pushing, barking, or jumping. Here's how your dog can start "earning"!

1

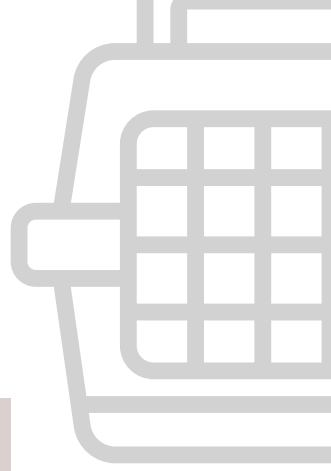
Wait at the Gate

Before opening a gate or door, ensure your dog is sitting or settled (slack on leash not rushing through). Slowly open the gate; if they move forward, say "no" and close it again. Repeat until they stay back as you fully open the gate, then release them with a cue like "Break!". This teaches patience and prevents door-dashing, keeping them safe from unexpected adventures (or jumping on your guest).

2

No Furniture

Don't allow your puppy on the furniture just yet—it's much easier to give freedom later than to take it away. Early access to couches and beds can create confusion about boundaries and lead to resource guarding or separation anxiety. By keeping furniture off-limits for now, you're teaching your puppy to relax on their own bed and respect personal space. Once they've learned calm, polite behavior, you can always invite them up as a privilege—earned, not assumed!



3

Ask for Affection

Ignore jumping, barking, or nudging and wait for calm behavior before giving attention. Do not allow them to jump up on the furniture with you until they wait nicely. When your dog sits or stands politely, reward them with attention. This teaches them that polite behavior—not pushiness—gets them the attention they want. Plus, you'll finally be able to drink coffee without a dog nose launching it onto your shirt.

4

I Spy

Instead of feeding meals in a bowl, keep portions of your dog's kibble in near the door, crate, and kitchen. Throughout the day, reward good behavior—like not barking at things out the window, dropping inappropriate items, or going into their crate. This keeps working for you vs. you chasing the dog to work. It creates an independly minded dog who is able to make good choices. Think of it as a paycheck for being a Very Good Dog!

