



## **Training Tip Sheet: Get Your Dog's Paws Off the Kitchen Counter**

*If your dog already checks the kitchen counter for goodies, you must prevent that.*

- Pay attention – know where your dog is at all times; preferably near you.
- Put a leash on him to keep him with you and out of the kitchen.
- Put a baby gate on the kitchen entrance so he can't go in when you're away.
- Use the section below on Training Your Dog to teach him to remain on the floor.

*To train your dog to keep his paws on the floor in the kitchen:*

- Remember that if a dog gets a reward for any behavior, he'll do it more often.
- Take him in the kitchen and reward all acceptable behaviors with treats:
  - Standing and looking in any direction other than at the countertop
  - Lying down
  - Sitting
  - Chewing on a chew toy or playing with a toy
  - Paying attention to you
- Provide a mat or bed for your dog to lie on when he's in the kitchen.
- Get him to lie on the mat and give him a treat every few seconds while he does.
- When you need to do kitchen chores, be prepared at first to give your dog a treat every few seconds while he's on his mat or give him a stuffed Kong or chew toy to occupy him. {See The Mannerly Dog's Tip Sheet on "[Preparing Stuffed Kongs and Using Food-dispensing Devices](#)"}
- Once your dog learns what you want him to do, provide a chew toy or a treat now and then for correct behavior while you're both in the kitchen.
- Work on having him keep his front paws on the floor in general:
  - Give him treats and pet him only when his front paws are on the floor.
  - Never encourage jumping up, even to "give you a hug".
  - Bend over to pet him outside at the gate or fence.
  - Don't let other people pet your dog when he jumps up on them.

*If you don't want your dog in the kitchen:*

If you'd rather your dog not be in the kitchen at all, provide a mat or bed just outside the kitchen and follow the same procedure to teach your dog that's where you want him to be. Don't forget to reward him *a lot* for staying there at first – make an effort to go over and give him a treat quite often. You can reward him less often once he gets the idea.

*If you want your dog to stand on his back legs in other circumstances:*

Later, when he is making the choice to keep his front paws on the floor in the kitchen or to stay out of the kitchen, you can carefully teach your dog to jump up and "give you a hug" or dance or do some other trick requiring him to stand on his back legs; but only when he understands the difference and can do it only when you ask.

Make things clear for him and he'll learn faster.