



## The Mannerly Dog

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### Training Tip Sheet: Adult Dog Management for Safety & a Bright Future

- Don't approach your dog; call him to you. Dogs like to have a choice and may feel threatened by being approached. Calling him to you in a friendly manner, even from a short distance, gives him the choice to come; when you reward him with a treat, he begins to learn that coming to you is a good thing.
- Don't grab your new dog's collar; drop a slip lead over his head. Keep a slip lead handy or make one out of a standard leash by slipping the bolt end through the loop. By dropping it over your dog's head from above, you can control him and avoid creating a threatening situation for him.
- Don't push or pull your dog; call him to come with you to re-position him. If your dog is on the furniture when you don't want him there, if he is in a room where you didn't mean to allow him, if he is in your way when you need to go through a doorway, coax him to come with you; show him where you'd like him to go and let him go there himself. This prevents you from putting your dog in a position where he feels cornered and unable to make a choice, and empowers him to respond to your request the next time this happens.
- Don't pull things out of your dog's mouth; trade him something good. If your dog has something in his mouth you don't want him to have, don't chase him or start an argument with him; simply offer him something better, like a particularly yummy treat that you don't normally give him. He'll probably drop the item when you hold the delicacy in front of his nose, eat the treat while you pick up the prized item, and you both win. Plus, this is the first step in training your dog to fetch things to you rather than running away with them.
- Don't take your dog's food bowl away while he's eating; to teach him not to fear hands near his food, drop extra pieces of food into his bowl.
- Don't yell at, shake your finger at, threaten, or hit your dog. It may stop the behavior you don't like, but it may also cause him to fear you. If your dog does something you don't like, make a mental note to train him to do something different. Allow the situation that is upsetting you to pass, and work on it when you and your dog are both in a good mood.
- Confine your new dog in a safe place when you're not home or can't watch him. Don't allow bad habits to begin. If you aren't going to use a crate, confine your dog in a laundry room or bathroom that you have dog-proofed. Provide a bed, a water bowl, and something good to chew on to pass the time
- Don't allow your new dog off-leash except in a fenced area. You and he have just met and he has had no training to come to you when you call. Begin working on recalls right away, but only on leash or in a fenced area.
- Don't assume your new adult dog has been properly socialized to people and dogs. Watch his body language carefully; give him treat each time he checks in with you and when he approaches someone politely.