



## Say Please!

Do you sometimes feel like your dog is running the show? Or maybe your dog is just a bit too demanding, rude or refuses to listen? If so, *Say Please!* may help. This program can help improve a dog's behavior and teach him to respect you as his or her caregiver in a non-confrontational way. By requiring your dog to 'work' for what he/she wants, you establish clear rules and expectations for your relationship.

1. Using positive reinforcement, train your dog to do some basic behaviors, for example: sit, down, stay, shake, speak, go around, touch, roll, wave, look, etc.
2. Ask your dog to preform one of the behaviors he/she knows before getting something they want

**Dog + Behavior = Reward**

**A Reward is Anything your Dog Wants**  
(a walk, dinner, access to the outside, a treat, to play with other dogs, etc)

For example:

- 🐾 If your dog wants to go for a walk, ask him to sit before putting his leash on
- 🐾 If it's time to eat, have your dog touch your hand before setting his bowl down
- 🐾 If you are going to allow your dog to run off leash, have him sit while you take off his leash then go around in a circle before you release him
- 🐾 If your dog is in the car, make him sit and stay while you open the door then give you a paw before you allow him out

Keys to Success...

- 🐾 Ignore all behavior you don't want, especially demanding or pushy behaviors
- 🐾 Say the cue (command) only once. If your dog doesn't respond, walk or turn away and try again a few seconds later
- 🐾 Be patient, especially in the beginning as your dog works to figure out what is being asked of him/her – *(it's so much easier to learn when the teacher isn't annoyed with us!)*
- 🐾 It is best if the entire family follows the *Say Please!* program – dogs relish in consistency