

Apartment Living with Your 4-Legged Fur Baby

Finding a pet-friendly apartment can be a pain, and once you finally find one, that pet deposit can be massive! The best thing you can do to avoid losing that money, is train your lil Fido or Fifi to be the best dog they can be. At the very least they should be able to:



1. Properly greet or walk by strangers without creating a ruckus: The last thing you need is your neighbor complaining that your dog growls at them every time they pass you in the hall or your dog to enthusiastically jump on your landlord whenever they see them.
2. Remain quiet when neighbors walk by your door or window: The best dog neighbors don't wake the whole floor up when a neighbor walks by the front door.
3. Chew on designated chew toys instead of those wooden floor panels that will surely be checked when you move out: Depending on the age of your pup, they may NEED to explore their world with their mouth. Provide them with appropriate outlets for this natural behavior!
4. Potty in designated places: Having limited potty spots that are potentially far from your apartment can be difficult to navigate! Help them understand the benefits of going in the right spot.

Here are some helpful tips to insure you and your pup are the ideal tenants for your apartment complex.

Proper Greeting:

1. Teach a mutually exclusive behavior...SIT: If your dog has to sit at a person's feet in order to receive pets, they cannot jump at the same time. Maintaining the "all 4 on the floor" rule (they do not get attention unless all 4 feet are on the floor), ask your dog to sit when they want snuggles from you or when a stranger is approaching. Once they are sitting, give them the praise and pets they are looking for, along with a treat. Should their butt leave the ground at any point, remove the attention and wait for them to put their butt back down. They will only receive snuggles from you or a stranger when their butt is on the ground. Once they've had their snuggles and the stranger leaves, give your dog a release word like "okay!" so they can stand again. Practice this when your friends and family come to visit! Your dog will soon learn to associate approaching people with butt on the ground, snuggles, and treats!
2. Note: If your dog is regularly displaying aggression towards strangers/neighbors, call Fetch Please right away to schedule a private consult.

Quiet Pooch Neighbor:

1. Barking for Attention: If their barking is stemming from a need for attention, do not reward the barking by providing the attention. After all, who's being trained, you or the dog? Wait until they are quiet for 5 seconds, THEN give them the attention they are seeking. That way, they are being reinforced for quiet patience rather than loud insistence.
2. Barking from Loneliness: If your dog is left alone for long periods of time, barking is presented often as a plea for any attention (bad or good). In these cases, provide them the attention and love they are seeking when they are presenting the proper behaviors. Effectively, you will be rewarding the right behavior and satisfying their need for love and affection.

3. Too Much Energy: Often barking is a natural way for dogs to exert the energy they so desperately need to spend. Take them for a walk, play some fetch with them, find enrichment toys and games you can play with them in order to help them spend that energy in an acceptable manner.
4. Not Knowing When They're Right: If your pup looks out the window and chooses NOT to bark at the construction crew outside, reinforce what's right by praising and treating them! Any time there's a ruckus outside your door and they remain calm and quiet, praise and treat!
5. Stress from Owner's Leaving/Arrival: As creatures of habit, we tend to have a set routine when getting ready to leave our dog at home alone. If this routine includes an elaborate goodbye, you are just adding to the stress your pup already feels when they first see you reach for that hat you wear every time you leave. Do your pup a favor and implement the following before leaving them behind:
 - a. Change your routine up as often as possible. For example, grab the shoes first or carry your keys around when you're NOT leaving.
 - b. Keep your energy calm when leaving or arriving. The less excitement/heightened energy you display, the less stress your dog will feel.
 - c. Provide them with enrichment toys to keep them busy in your absence. These are toys which make the dog work to get the treat/kibble inside!
 - d. Try leaving music or, even better, an audiobook playing while you are gone. The catch is, this music or audiobook needs to be something that is presented at times when you are around as well. Otherwise, it will just serve as another indication that you are leaving.
6. Anxiety?: If the barking happens when you're leaving and continues throughout your absence, it may stem from anxiety. Often anxious barking is paired with property destruction as well. If this is the case, give Fetch Please a call in order to establish a behavior modification plan suitable for your dog's needs.

Proper Chewing:

1. Teething Pups: Puppies will begin losing their teeth between weeks 12-16 of their lives. At this point, they are going to need safe and appropriate things to chew on. Feeding one of their meals in a frozen Kong is a perfect opportunity to give your pup some relief from the pains of teething and reinforce chewing the right things!
2. Set Them Up for Success: Speaking of reinforcing chewing the right things, you have the power! First, provide appropriate chew toys and remove things that aren't appropriate. Any time your dog chooses to chew on a bone or a Kong, reinforce with praise and a treat! If destructive chewing is an issue, contain your pup in a crate or Ex-Pen when you cannot be there to assure they don't chew on those floorboards.
3. Address Boredom: Puppies and dogs alike are going to get bored when you're not paying attention to them or you are gone. Leave engaging enrichment toys out when you can't monitor what they put their mouths on. These often have treats that the dog has to work for, which can help with the boredom. Additionally, providing proper exercise will always help.
4. Note: If destructive chewing continues to be an issue, call Fetch Please to schedule your private consult.

Potty Training:

1. First, know that any spots in the home where previous pets or your new pet have urinated will further urination in the area. The key is to not only disinfect but to eliminate the ammonia odor by balancing the pH with white vinegar.
2. If they are continually having bowel movements in the house due to urgency, pay attention to the consistency of their BM's. If they are consistently runny or discolored, you may need to explore new feeding options that better suit your dogs' digestive needs. Discuss this with your vet if it continues to be a problem.
3. Learn your dogs' biological clock and stick to a routine. Feeding, watering, and walking at the same times during the day will help your dog in the potty-training process.
4. Once you've established their biological clock, kennel/confine them 10 or 15 minutes before they will need to go outside. When they do, put them on leash and walk them to your preferred potty spot. If they do not start eliminating within 3 minutes, bring them back inside and put them in their kennel. In 5 minutes, repeat the process. Do so until you have successful elimination.
5. Upon elimination in the designated potty spot, cheerfully repeat your potty word (potty, poo, pee, etc) in a high-pitched, excited voice while they're actively eliminating. Once they are done, heavily praise and treat. Also, give them some fun, outside time once they've eliminated. You don't want to inadvertently punish them for pottying by ending their outside time as soon as they've gone. That's how you create a dog that waits longer and longer to go!
6. Repeat this process whenever it is potty time. Depending on your puppies age, this may be more frequent. For instance, 8-week-old puppies should be let out hourly where as a 5 month old may be able to wait 5 or 6 hours.
7. Until potty training is established, it is your responsibility as master of the door to be vigilantly watching your dog or, if at any point you are too pre-occupied, to keep them in a safely confined space until you can provide your full attention, or it is potty time.
8. If your dog eliminates in your home, this is never their fault and scolding them will only encourage them to go where you can't see them (behind the couch, bed, tv, etc).

Be sure to check out our website, www.fetchpleasedogtraining.com and Facebook page, <https://facebook.com/Fetchpleasedogtraining/> to share your success stories! If you continue to have issues with any of these tips or your pet displays other undesirable behaviors, give Fetch Please Dog Training a call at **(307)258-2744** or email at fetchpleasepup@gmail.com and we'll get you and your dog on the road to a peaceful and stress-free household.