

# Canine Common Courtesy

## “NO DOGS ALLOWED!”

Unfortunately, signs like this are more common everyday. The signs are posted by people who are frustrated with dog owners who do not take responsibility for their dogs. The lack of courtesy displayed by many dog owners is resulting in dogs being banned in many areas where they might otherwise be allowed. *You* can help change this!

Here's how:

**TRAIN YOUR DOG.** Good manners gain respect. Having a well-behaved dog should be the norm, not the exception. Never allow your dog to jump up on people or other dogs. Control growling and other aggressive behavior in public. Don't allow your dog to bark excessively in public. Don't let your dog run out to the end of it's leash, or worse yet, to the end of a long retractable leash when others are around. When off lead, don't let your dog chase cars, people, wildlife, or other animals.

**PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.** Always carry plastic bags when you are out with your dog. We call them “accidents” for a reason. After you use it, throw the bag in a trash receptacle. Don't let your dog urinate any place it wants. Dogs should never urinate on playground equipment, flowerbeds, or personal property. If you wouldn't let the dog urinate (or defecate) there at home, it should not be allowed to go there in public.

**RESPECT THE RULES.** Keep your dog leashed when signs or laws require it. Don't take your dog places where it is banned. If you are going to a State or Federal Park, or will be hiking or camping on public land, check with local authorities regarding access for your dog. Access varies from place to place and breaking the rules is not an effective way to change them.

**REMEMBER THAT NOT EVERY PERSON AND DOG WANTS TO MEET YOUR DOG.** Do not allow your dog to greet strangers unless they request to do so. Do not allow your dog to approach another dog until it is clear that both the other dog ***and*** his owner approve of the idea. When you approach other people or dogs while your dog is off-lead, call your dog to you and keep him at heel or on a sit-stay until they pass by or indicate that they would like to interact with your dog.

In the past it was common to allow dogs to run loose and unsupervised, in rural areas. Today leash laws and dog-at-large restrictions are present in nearly all areas and prohibit this practice. Allowing your dog to run loose and unsupervised is not only rude it is dangerous. The hazards to a loose, unsupervised dog are too many to list. **NEVER** allow this.

Dog ownership is a privilege and a responsibility. Behave responsibly and you and your dog will help us all earn the privileges of freedom and access.



**ACADEMY FOUR PAWS**

Dog Training by Cheryl Miller

Cornville, Arizona

928-646-0168