

Here is your Top Tip number  
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Top Tip #6

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## **Good Manners. Waiting.**

*Hello again dear dog lover.*

*Today's Top Tip has been briefly mentioned in a previous email, but it is something that should be incorporated into the step by step training that I have already suggested to you, and it should be of particular importance to those of you that have acquired a puppy. As you may know if you have visited my website, asked me to help with solving a dog problem, or if you have been on one of my dog psychology courses, my main concern is bringing a dog into what is known as a 'balanced state'. That means that it is content and fulfilled, and does not show negative behaviour to everyday situations. In fact, putting it even simpler, it is a dog that is happy just being a dog.*

*This means that I am not so concerned in teaching a dog tricks, but I am more interested in a dog being problem free. That is why a dog with MANNERS is so important to me, and one small part of being well mannered in the dog world is... WAITING.*

*Let us get on with today's Top Tip.*

*Regards... Glen Stanford.*

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## *The UK Dog Whisperer.*

It might not sound too interesting to you... waiting! And let's face it, it's not going to get your dog on Britain's Got Talent, is it? But from a balanced dog point of view, it is an essential part of a young dog's mental growth. Of course, I have to deal with older dogs that have no restraint or self-discipline, and sometimes they do not understand why they need to change, but they are much happier for it when they do.

You see, if puppies are brought by balanced untroubled parents, or as in the wild, a pack of dogs, they are taught manners, rules, boundaries, and limitations, from the moment they are born, and this is an ongoing education that continues. It is important that they are taught that all their actions are governed by their elders, and that manners are expected long before they are taught skills. Even with our own human babies, we bond, communicate, and teach manners first. We teach a growing baby Please and Thankyou long before they learn to read and Write. After all, they need to understand how the family works, before they need skills to take into the outside world.

And waiting is an important discipline every animal needs to learn. The crocodile lays dormant waiting for the wildebeest to arrive at the river, the frog waits patiently for the rain to arrive, the wild dog waits for the hunting party to return with food.... and we watch the clock waiting to go home from work!

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*But what do I do about my dog?”* I here you ask

Well it is not too complicated, as fortunately we live quite regulated lives. We have to walk the dog, we have to feed the dog, we like to play with the dog, and we have plenty of opportunities to incorporate some mental discipline into a daily routine.

If the dog is being fed, present the dinner and make it wait for a few seconds (holding the dinner bowl at waist height), don't just put it on the floor and walk away. Then put the food on the floor and make the dog wait again before you

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release it from its waiting state.

As you are leaving the front door to take the dog for a walk, make it wait. Just stand there with no tension on the lead. The dog must learn to wait, not be restrained by you. And lead the way, with you walking slightly in front of the dog. Another sign that the dog accepts you are the leader of this exercise. Another sign of good manners.

And at playtime, incorporate a game where the dog has to wait to take the ball or toy. Not snatch it. It's just good manners. Of course, like children, it doesn't take a lot of encouragement to turn any game into total excitement, and manners can be forgotten, but that's an opportunity to teach a dog that you start the game, control the tempo of the game, and say when the game is over. It is all healthy discipline that can reward you over the complete lifetime of the dog.

Of course, the topic of good or bad manners is subjective, but at the end of the day, it is our responsibility to instill good manners if necessary.

So, a little philosophical today, but worth a thought.

See you tomorrow for another TOP TIP.

Best Wishes... *Glen*



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