

6 rules of Petiquette



Get off on the right paw and keep management off your tail with our 6 Rules of Petiquette.

1 Start at the Vet

Dogs and cats need spaying or neutering - especially when living in such close proximity to other animals. This saves you—and other owners—the multiple hassles of an unwanted pregnancy or unwanted physical advances on your precious pooch.

Dogs and cats also need up-to-date vaccinations when living in apartments. Extra precautionary shots for Parvo and Bordetella are also good suggestions.

2 Minimize Barking

You want to really reduce any barking issues that may begin to develop with your pet. Your pet's barking can turn the most innocuous sweet old lady upstairs into a death-threatening, police-calling madwoman who reports you constantly to the office. Stay on your toes and stop—at all costs—your dog's barking.

3 Don't Let 'Em Go Out Alone

The great outdoors is for you and Fido, not you or Fido. Dogs and cats should never be left to wander outdoors unattended. If you're not there, your pet should not be there either. Cats left to stray often go feral, get into fights or die. Everyone's heard the eerie, "child-like" screams as two cats claw it out in the night—scary! Keep that cat indoors and safe. The same goes for your pooch. Dogs get run over and taken into doggy custody when out alone.

4 Patios are Not for Pets

Rule #4 follows the same logic as Rule #3: Dogs and cats should not be left unattended on patios or balconies. You're not planning on teaching your dog to grill out there, are you?

5 Leash and Go

But when you do want to take Roofus out for some exercise, outside is the perfect place to get that jog in. So how do you practice "Petiquette" when out and about?

Dogs and cats need to be on a leash when out and about. Leashing keeps Roofus from darting out in front of cars and making Scaredy-Second-Floorer-Sallie fear for her life. Even if Roofus is on a leash, he should still be controlled by you. Make sure Roofy doesn't approach children or others too fast, and that he doesn't jump on them or look like he's straining to get a piece of their leg.

And while we're at it, make sure you've got updated tags and the cool little tracking device in his shoulder. You want Roofus to make it back home if anything ever happens to him, right?

6 Pick Up After Your Pup

And of course, Rule #6 is a given: Pick up the little brown presents your pet leaves all over the grounds...because brown presents aren't really presents and they don't smell very good either. Simply take out a plastic bag, stoop and scoop, then turn the bag inside out and tie. Place in the nearest receptacle.

Voilà. You've got Petiquette.

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