

STATION #2 - ELEVATOR ETIQUETTE

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Elevator etiquette - When riding an elevator with your dog it is important to keep your dog under control at all times. As you enter the elevator, keep your dog on a short leash, move to the rear of the elevator if possible and stand slightly in front of your dog. Your dog needs to remain next to their handler whether standing or sitting. People entering and exiting the elevator can distract a dog especially one that loves to greet people. The elevator isn't time for a visit. If someone asks to greet your dog, tell them they are welcome to once you are off the elevator. Remember whether riding an elevator or walking stairs always keep your dog close beside you. You may encounter an elevator at the hospitals, rehab centers, airports, superior court, probation department or anywhere that has multi levels. It is important that you and your dog are practicing proper etiquette.

Sit/stay-come - Stay can be one of the hardest behaviors for a dog to master. Most dogs want to follow you, so staying in place while you move away is difficult for them. Practicing the stay by **slowly** adding distractions, distance and duration is important. Practice at home with little to no distractions. When you are able to leave the room and your dog remains then it is time to go outdoors in your yard. One of the biggest mistakes while training your dog to stay is moving ahead too fast. When you have placed your dog in stay they must be released from the behavior. There are two ways to release your dog. One is by using a release word. I prefer "let's go" to release my dog because it triggers movement. Secondly is by giving them an additional command such as "come" or "heel up". This lets the dog know they are still under command and are not free to play or roam around. When visiting at the airport, you must go through the metal detector without your dog. Placing your dog in a sit/stay, then calling them to come to you through the metal detector once you have passed. There may be other locations where you need your dog to remain in stay while you move away from them so having a reliable stay is important.

Wait - Teaching your dog to wait is simply having your dog wait to be invited before proceeding forward. The wait is different from stay in that it is informal. The dog does not have to sit or down, they can stand, sit, or down as they feel. The key is they do not proceed until you invite them. Wait is important when entering or exiting a building. You never know what is on the other side of the doorway so entering first and making sure the coast is clear and then inviting your dog by using the command "Let's go". Waiting is important inside the car as well when you are attempting to take your dog out of the car especially in a parking lot where cars won't always see your dog and they could be hit by a car backing out or moving. Wait is also a good command to use prior to giving your dog something. It can be a very good command to teach reliably so that your dog doesn't take something they shouldn't. Use the command "take it" to allow them to have something you had them wait for.

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KEY POINTS

Elevator Etiquette

- *Keep your dog close on your left side*
- *Stand slightly in front of dog*
- *Do not allow dog to greet people on elevator*

Sit/Stay-Come

- *Practice sit/stay daily*
- *Slowly add distractions, distance & duration*
- *Always release dog from sit/stay*
- *Use release word, "COME" to end command*

Wait

- *Wait is a less formal command than stay.*
- *Dog can stand, sit or be in a down.*
- *Always release dog from wait with "let's go" if moving*
- *Release with "Take it" if having dog wait for something*