

Tips for finicky eaters

Feng Shui with Fido™ Philosophy: Time feeding is the key to curing your finicky eater. It's really important for housebreaking, too. Doing so will help your dog avoid being distracted by family members and other household pets while eating.

get: A bowl, a baby gate or a corral to create a feeding space during this training process. This allows you to section off part of your kitchen or hallway, and feed your puppy in this area.

use: Feeding your dog in this gated space allows your dog to focus on the task at hand: eating. It also allows your dog the security to eat and not feel the need to protect its food from children or other pets.

when: Choose a feeding time that suits your daily schedule, morning or evening. Dogs love company when they eat, so make sure it's at a time when you are hanging out. Check with your local vet to make sure your dog is not sick in any way. Don't worry if your dog doesn't finish all the food in the first few times you try time feeding. Dogs will not go anorexic. Finicky eating dogs will eat the next day.



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where: The gated or corralled space should be located in a central area of your house.

How:

1. Use a leash to get your dog into the gated area. This allows you to guide your dog rather than coax him.
2. Use a happy voice and walk him into the gated area. Gently lift up on the leash while saying "sit". Repeat this until he does so. The leash and your friendly voice help's create eye contact from your dog to you and show's him how to please you. Take your time in the beginning and this will become a pattern that happens on it's own. For now, be consistent with the leash.
3. Then say "sit" and "wait." Back up, close the gate and take off the leash.
4. Prepare the food and then serve it in the gated area.
5. Put the food down for 20 minutes only. Time feeding trains your dog to eat in one sitting and not graze. This training is also really important to the housebreaking schedule contributing to when and how he learns to go potty.
6. After your dog is finished eating, lean over the gate and put the leash back on. Say "sit" and "wait". Then, slowly open the gate. Repeat the word "wait."



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7. If your dog does not wait and wants to rush out of the gated area, give a quick tug on the leash and simultaneously say the word "NO". Repeat "sit" and "wait" and slowly open the gate. When you get eye contact from your dog, say the release command "OK!" Then take your pup outside to go potty! Oh...by the way, say the word "outside" so your dog associates it with the action of going out and going potty all at the same time!

Why: Feeding your dog in this manner creates a positive pattern in your daily life. It also teaches your dog manners and to eat his meal in peace and in one sitting. Time feeding your dog in this manner is also essential to teaching him to go potty outside.

fyi: If you are feeding your dog human food YOU are creating the finicky eater! Know that if you're adding chicken and other stuff to the dog food, it's not helping your dog. Here is the trick, if you want to add anything to this feeding process, sprinkle a dried liver dog treat over the food. It's more like a seasoning. Your dog won't be able to pick out the pieces of treats because the dried liver (once crushed) becomes more like a fine dust over the dog kibble.

