

Metropolitan Manners for City Pets

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

As a dog owner in the city, you have special responsibilities. You want your neighbors to appreciate your pup just as much as you do, but with space at a premium, and much of it shared, this may take extra effort on your part. To be a good neighbor, you and your dog need to:

Promote Pet Safety

Take the time to teach your dog to be obedient on a [lead](#). For just tooling around town, a 4-foot lead is great for keeping your dog close. Retractable leads are option in parks where your pup has room to roam, however, care needs to be exercised on crowded sidewalks, foot paths, or at traffic crossings.

Practice Perfect Potty Manners

In a high rise apartment, indoor houstraining may be your only practical option. Luckily, most dogs can be houstrained fairly easily, especially with aids like our [Piddle Pads®](#), which contain attractants so your dog will seek out the pad when she needs to go. When you take your pet outdoors, of course, always bring a [scoop](#) and [bag](#) for cleanup.

Control Barking

Habitual barking presents many challenges. In addition to barking ordinances that can result in violations and fines, a barking dog can quickly create tension between neighbors. If you need to stop barking fast, consider either an [electronic](#) or [Anti-Bark Spray Collar](#). You can also use a [sound-correction unit](#) to startle your dog when she barks. These devices are meant as tools to augment, not replace, your on-going training.

Keep Your Building Hair-Free

If you live in an apartment or condo, take care to minimize shedding issues. Heavy shedding can also occur any time of the year due to allergies, disease, or a poor diet. To minimize shedding, we recommend feeding a high quality [food](#), plus a fatty acid supplement like [Vitacoat® Plus](#), to keep your dog's coat healthy. If scratching from allergies is causing fur to fly, supplement with [Vitacaps](#) and Biotin. Also, use a gentle [Shed Reducing Shampoo](#) once a week and brush regularly.

Calm Your Pet

If your dog is anxious around strangers, don't take chances. Use a calming support product like [Ultra-Calm® Soft Chews](#) or [Rescue Remedy](#). These products support

calm behavior for short periods of 1-2 hours. Pet parents have seen a remarkable improvement with the [Comfort Zone with Adaptil Diffuser Kit](#), which diffuses appealing pheromones to reduce stress-related behaviors.

With care, training, and the right tools, your pet can be a popular member of your community.

Drs. Foster & Smith Classic Piddle Pads® Dispoz-A-Scoop PetSafe® Anti-Bark® Spray Collar™

Drs. Foster & Smith Signature Series® Adult Dog Food Drs. Foster & Smith Ultra-Calm® Soft Chews Comfort Zone with Adaptil Diffuser Kit