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Fall 2008

Greetings!

What a beautiful time of year. Family starts to come over more often for football games, dinners and holiday festivities. Having family visiting with pets can be a lot of fun, but one might regret the decision as well. This issue will give 5 areas to consider when bringing your dog along or when the pet-in-law comes to visit.

I have also taken a closer look at the Kibble Nibble, a new product from Premier to help with mental and physical stimulation during meal times.

Lisa, Certified Dog Trainer



Pet-friendly hosting

[...and being a good doggy guest](#)

Its visiting time! Holiday festivities and celebrations are upon us. Whether you decide to bring your pet with you or are a pet-friendly host, below are five tips that will keep



the four legged friends safe and happy:

1. **Ask that the pet come over well exercised.** Visiting canines will be very excited in the new place; reducing some of the energy by a good romp at the park or long walk should help.
2. **Have your doggy ammunition ready.** Be prepared to entertain your canine guest with a plush toy, chew or treat dispensing puzzle toy.
3. **Assume nothing!** Formally introduce guests or non-pet savvy visitors to the dog. This gives you the opportunity to show how to pet the dog, where to pet and to come get you if there is anything needed.
4. **Stay connected with your canine.** As a responsible dog guardian we should be aware and ready to call our dog to us when necessary.
5. **Think ahead of time where your dog can nap or rest.** Even the friendliest of pups will tire of the constant stimulation. Bring your dog's bed or crate as a nice place for them to have a little alone time.

Enjoying your family and friends is the priority, so if the above makes the visit too much to handle it's best to leave your dog at home, or even better, off to daycare.

PRODUCT REVIEW: Kibble Nibble™ by Premier



Photo courtesy of premier.com

Overview: Its all about the stimulation! Of course I am paraphrasing what Premier states about its latest product on the market, the Kibble Nibble™. This product is constructed from a very hard outer shell with a ribbing of purple rubber on the outside (smart move for hardwood floor owners!). Similar to its Twist and Treat™ sister product, the Kibble Nibble™ twists open so you can place up to 2 cups of dry dog food inside. Once closed it has an egg shape with two holes. One hole is on the top and the other on the bottom. The holes have carefully placed rubber prongs that allow for bits of kibble to roll-out. The packaging instructions encourages the owner to 'adjust' the rubber prongs by snipping them to the appropriate size of the dry dog food.

Test Subject: Jack, All-American dog mix, 26 lbs, male

Results: Filled with his dry dog food, Jack sniffed around and tried to stick his tongue

inside to reach the food. Once I realized that I need to adjust the holes, he was able to shove it around with his nose and eat his meal. Jack tired easily and disengaged his meal after a few minutes.

Comments: I really love this thing even if Jack does not. As a trainer and dog guardian any time we can stimulate our dogs during everyday activities it improves their quality of life. Now meal time is no exception. Here is our opportunity to make meals interactive and require a little bit of work. This is another tool in my tool box for behavior work as well.

Rating: 5 out of 6 paws (how about one small enough for the terriers?)

*"Dogs' lives are too short. Their only fault, really."
- Agnes Sligh Turnbull*

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