

[MISS PETIQUETTE]

PETIQUETTE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Dear Ms Petiquette,

DI have a problem with my neighbours and was wondering if you have any suggestions on how I can deal with this.

My dog Oscar has put on a great deal of weight in the past few months. I haven't been feeding him any more than his normal food and training treats. I even discussed his weight gain with my vet and there doesn't appear to be any medical problem.

Then I discovered where he's been getting extra food—from my neighbours. The neighbours have been treating him with sausages and biscuits and they've recently told me about this. They have been doing this to win over Oscar.

When we moved in about a year ago, Oscar would bark and bark at the neighbours whenever they would come and go from the side of their house to their back garden. He doesn't do that anymore and the reason is that they've been slipping him human food. They even buy cocktail sausages from the local market especially for him.

I know they're just being nice but how can I ask them to stop without seeming horrible. Help!

Julia M.
Lane Cove

Dear Julia,

What a weighty problem you have. I really understand your situation and it's a tricky one. If they don't stop then poor Oscar will become a fatty, fatty two-by-four and won't be able to fit through your kitchen door. On the other hand the neighbours have worked hard to make friends with Oscar and have also worked out that he is a true cupboard lover. The way to a dog's heart really is through his stomach.

I would never advocate lying (not normally) but perhaps a little white lie in this matter wouldn't hurt and certainly won't hurt your neighbour's feelings and their relations with Oscar.

I would have a chat with them and (here's the LWL) explain that Oscar has been diagnosed with something that makes his diet restrictive. It is for this reason that he can't be feed human food as it makes him sick. Then I would present them with a bag of good quality and low calorie treats that they can give to Oscar.

This way you keep everyone happy. Your neighbours feel good because they retain a friend in Oscar and Oscar feels good because he's still got his friends on the other side of the fence. You feel at ease knowing that Oscar won't end up in the vets with a real problem caused by the wrong kind of treats.

Regards,

Miss P.

Miss Petiquette (not her real name) lives in a cramped urban cottage with her dog and two cockatiels. Her partially blind bunny has since crossed over the rainbow bridge. One pet down, Miss Petiquette has even more time on her hands to answer your questions regarding manners in the modern age for pet lovers. Miss Petiquette is on hand to deal with your perplexing petiquette and personal problems. Email her at behaviour@urbananimal.net



[FURRY FEST]

Saturday 5 March

Dogs At Auction

The general public are invited to bring their dogs along to this auction house where there will be freebies and gifts for all dogs. There will be a best dressed competition and the biggest spender will receive a portrait of their dog by Geoff Crowft. The event is held in collaboration with Pet Barn so there's bound to be some great pet products.

79 Mitchell Road
Alexandria NSW 2015

Saturday 19 March

5th Annual Hunter Animal Rescue 'Pets Picnic' Come join the nice folk who do the hard work at Hunter Animal Rescue and help a worthy cause while having fun.

This family friendly event will have market stalls, sausage sizzle, demonstrations and 'Hounds High Tea'. Get there early for \$20 micro chipping from 10:00am until 12 noon. More info can be found at www.hunteranimalrescue.com.au

Creek Reserve Road
Speers Point Park Speers Point
2284
10:00am to 3:00pm



Saturday 11 June

Dogs NSW Open Day 'Champion Show'

Set this date aside for the whole family as Dogs NSW open their gates to the public to show off some 50 plus dog breeds. There will be demonstrations like herding, agility and obedience. Many dog breed clubs will be there to talk answer questions on the nature, temperament and needs of each breed. This is a great day for people considering a breed of dog and want to find out about some of the great activities you can do together.

Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs
44 Luddenham Road Erskine Park NSW 2759
9:00am to 5:00pm - free event and free parking

