

modern manners

Petiquette Questions Answered



Dear Miss Petiquette,

I have a friend who got her puppy about the same time as I got mine. Both dogs are nearly two and love to play with each other. My friend often pops over for play dates and up until recently it's been fine.

The problem is her dog, Sammy, has become destructive and has managed to chew through a newly installed irrigation system, a designer cushion and one time, raided the laundry basket. I really like my friend but am getting to really dislike her dog—to the point that I want to yell when she ignores this behaviour, or worse, thinks this is cute.

Should I tell her that I really don't want him visiting my house and should I ask to be reimbursed for the destruction and havoc he's caused?

[Name Withheld]

Dear [Name Withheld],

Not an uncommon problem you're facing I'm afraid. I developed some serious backbone some years back when friends would bring over their toddlers for a luncheon. While the kiddies played on, the adults switched off. My walls ended up being crayoned, mud pie was made on the coffee table and my dog was terrorised. All the while the parents sucked back a cold chardy and turned a blind eye to their evil-doers.

Are these dogs and children allowed to carry on like this under their own roof? Probably not but it's up to you to give your friend some boundaries in behaviour.

My advice is simple. Leave the play dates to dog parks. Arrange this well in advance so that there are no surprise visits and you're not on the back-foot. This should save your friendship, soft furnishings and ensure your knickers are not in a twist. I think you're well within your rights to present her with a bill for the damage done but this may put a strain on the friendship—so I would let it go.

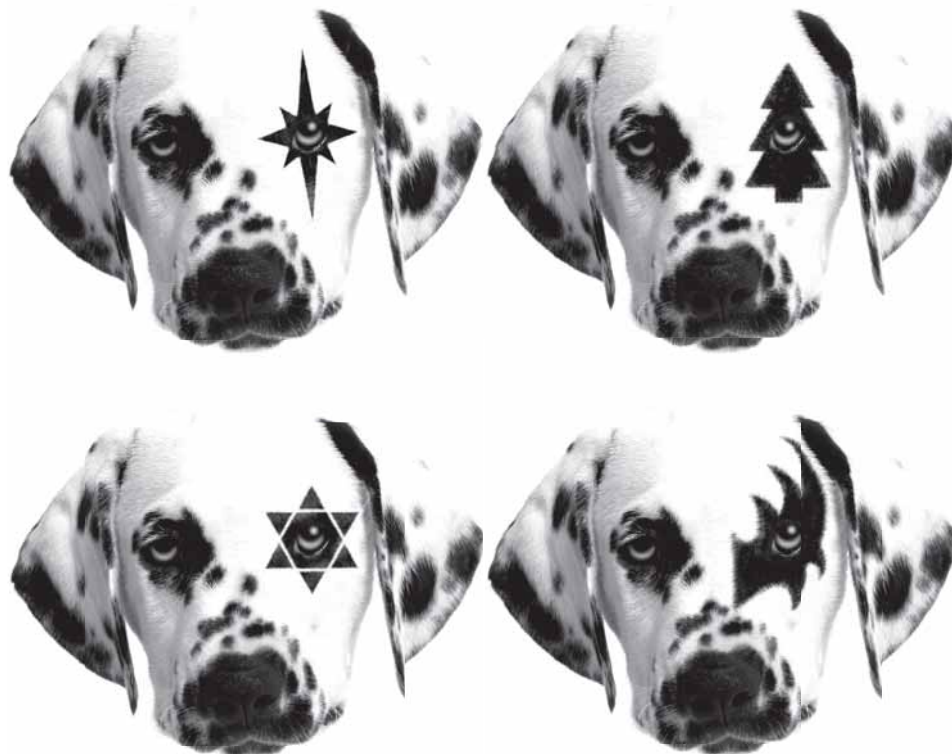
Miss Petiquette (not her real name) lives in a cramped urban cottage with her dog and two cockatiels. Her partially blind bunny has since crossed over the rainbow bridge. One pet down, Miss Petiquette has even more time on her hands to answer your questions regarding manners in the modern age for pet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

Email her at behaviour@urbananimal.net



No matter how you celebrate your festive season we hope...

IT ROCKS!



From all the team and critters here at Urban Animal we wish you a safe and happy holiday season and a rocking 2010