

The Party

Including Your Four-Legged Friend by Suezanne M. Law



Your family is having a dinner party! You've invited relatives and friends from all over to come enjoy the afternoon with you. Your dog Fido wants to be included in the fun. How can that happen safely?

1. While Mother and Father are preparing the feast, you occupy Fido by
 - a. Playing chase through the kitchen
 - b. Throwing the Frisbee in the dining room
 - c. Practicing fun tricks in the living room to show off once the guests arrive
 - d. Watching TV while Fido plays on his own
2. As the guests arrive, you help Fido to greet them nicely by
 - a. Putting his leash on him before the doorbell rings
 - b. Standing away from the door so the guests can enter easily
 - c. Cueing Fido to sit as each new person approaches him
 - d. All of the above
3. During the meal, you
 - a. Cue Fido to lie quietly on his mat and chew a Bully Stick
 - b. Feed Fido secretly under the table
 - c. Put Fido in his kennel with a stuffed Kong toy
 - d. Either A or C
4. After enjoying the feast, you
 - a. Invite the whole family to go with you as you walk with Fido around a nearby park
 - b. Tether Fido in the backyard while you play basketball with your cousins
 - c. Leave Fido alone in the dining room with the leftovers
 - d. Feed Fido cooked chicken bones

Answers:

1. While Mother and Father work in the kitchen and dining room, you can help out most effectively by keeping Fido out of those rooms while still watching him closely. Practicing tricks to show your guests is a terrific use of your time and Fido's energy. The answer is C.
2. The arrival of guests can be a very exciting and dangerous time for dogs. You can help by putting Fido on his leash before the guests arrive so that he can't rush out the door or jump on people as they enter. Cueing Fido to sit as your visitors approach to greet him helps Fido to practice good behavior while still being part of the fun. The answer is D.
3. It is difficult to keep a dog occupied while good food is being enjoyed at the dining room table. While a small amount of people-food may be all right for some dogs, Fido should not be fed from the table. Instead, it is best to give him his own treats and a place to enjoy them. The answer is D.
4. After dinner it is easy to forget that Fido may not be as relaxed as the rest of the family. Left to his own devices, Fido may get into trouble, especially if he eats chicken bones or rich food, which could make him very ill. Exercise is important for the whole family, and can add to the fun, but it should be planned to include the four-legged family members, too. The answer is A.

This activity sheet has been made available to you by Sympawtico Dog Training, LLC and your pet care professional:

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