



## **How to observe National Good Neighbor Day – With your dog!**

September 26, 2018

### **Boost how ‘neighborly’ you and your dog are with these tips by our resident dog trainer Michelle Sherman**

I like to keep an eye on all the fun national holidays throughout the year – there are over 1,200 of them!

Observed annually on 9/28 is **National Good Neighbor Day** which has been around since the early 1970s. The holiday intends to motivate us to think about ways we can be better neighbors.

It got me thinking about ways we (and our dogs!) can be better neighbors. If you live in a neighborhood where a lot of people walk their dogs, you probably wish everyone’s’ dogs could be neighborly to each other. Unfortunately that is not always the case.

Good thing I have a coworker who is a dog trainer! Let me introduce you to [Michelle Sherman](#) who is our Procurement Manager here at The Honest Kitchen by day. I picked her brain for some quick and easy to institute tips as well as just some things to keep in mind when taking your dog out on a stroll in the neighborhood or playing around at a neighborhood dog park.

## **Be a thoughtful neighbor**

By carrying around extra poop bags. Everyone runs out of bags at some point, right? You can be your neighbor's hero by sparing a bag.

## **Be a fun neighbor**

By carrying around extra dog treats. Watch the dog prance off very proud of herself that she gets a treat from you on a walk. Just remember to ask the dog's owner if it's OK to give a treat. Many dogs have allergies.

## **Be a law-abiding neighbor**

By knowing your neighborhood or city leash laws. They are in place for good reason. If you are not in an off-leash dog park/beach area, please keep a leash on your pet. It is common for some dogs to get stressed when they see another dog off leash when they are on leash.

## **Be a respectful neighbor**

By asking your neighbors if they ever hear your pup cry when you leave her at home. If so, try giving treat dispensing puzzles as you are leaving. My dog can't wait for me to leave every day. If your dog has severe separation anxiety, work with a trainer. Both your dog and your neighbor will thank you.

## **Don't assume...**

When you're out on a walk with your dog, don't assume that just because your dog is a friendly kid, that everyone else's dog is also friendly. For those folks with dogs who aren't looking for new friends, it can be very stressful to manage giving their dogs the space they need on a neighborhood walk.

## **Give space and err on the side of communicating**

If an unknown dog is pooping just give a bit of space and pop out into the street or simply wait the couple of moments so they can go in another direction when they are finished, if needed. Also feel free to call out, "is it alright if I pass with my dog?"

## **How did we do?**

We hope National Good Neighbor Day is now on your radar. Did you find this post fun and useful? If so, we would love to hear from you! In the comments section below, let us and the other blog readers know some ways you and your dog like to be neighborly.

