

EMPOWERING SMALL DOGS OR PUPPIES IN A BIG WORLD!



**Courteous
Canine, Inc.**
Results the FUN way!

Being small in a world built for giants can be overwhelming! But with the right training and understanding, we can help small dogs or puppies feel confident, safe, and empowered. Here's how:

Be Playful & Keep Training Fun!

Small dogs often experience stress when they feel out of control. Using play as a training tool makes learning enjoyable and helps build confidence! Try:

Rewarding curiosity with treats and praise.

Playing games like hide-and-seek to encourage engagement. Make yourself small and crawl to your hiding place or hide on a bed under covers!

Letting them 'win' small challenges like finding treats under objects. Or letting them win at the game of tug!

Make Yourself Small

Imagine the world from their perspective—tall humans, towering furniture, and loud noises! You can make things less intimidating by:

Sitting on the floor during training or greetings.
Offering a hand low to the ground then very gradually building up to hands reaching up over their heads or backs. Start with just tossing treats while you reach for them!

Speaking softly and letting them approach you first.
Tossing treats for being close to you.

Announce What You're Going to Do

Sudden movements can startle small dogs, especially when they feel they have no escape. Avoid reaching for small dogs or puppies when they are in crates instead use high value food to help them voluntarily come out. Help them feel secure by:

Saying "reach" before reaching
Saying "touch" before touching
Saying, "pick up" before lifting.

Helping Small Dogs Feel Comfortable with Touch & Being Picked Up

Many small dogs are lifted without warning, making them feel scared. Teach them that handling is safe and predictable:

Start with gentle touches and reward with treats. Remember to announce all you are doing like explained above. All announcements and actions are paired with high value treats.

Lift them briefly and set them down before they become tense. Throw a huge treat and toy party that they will love. Hold them securely but not too tight—support their chest and back legs. Hold them close to your body letting them clasp your arm with their front legs if they want to. Anything that helps them feel secure.

Let them hop onto your lap instead of always being picked up. Or even more fun, teach them to jump into your arms.



By understanding their world and giving them the tools to navigate it confidently, we help small dogs feel safe, respected, and ready to take on life with courage!

If you need any help, please contact us, we are always here for you.

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