

Clancy's Cliché's

It's November Nibbles time, aka Canine Connections for your Thanksgiving Table Guests. Don't let those tenuous gatherings get you down. Use these six ways normally used to connect humans with dogs as a guideline. From my perspective, it seems it could work both ways.



Training Is Caring ... let visitors know what the game plan will be, otherwise they may create their own agenda and feel disappointed, or feel like they've disappointed you, especially when things go a bit wonky. Deep down, everyone really wants everyone else to feel happiness and joy. Even after your gathering, reinforce your new "connections" and always communicate clearly for better bonding.

Feed By Hand ... offer the gift not only of food, but of love, understanding, and a pat on the head. Try not to shove anything down anyone's throat or force feed. Make sure to cut things up in bite-size pieces to avoid the gag reflex before presenting anything. Be present and part of the eating experience which, by the way, is not necessarily about the food. Oh, and don't forget to serve delicious treats!

Experience Nature Together ... OK so this one was a long stretch so imagine walking hand in hand with each person at the table. What new scenery is detectable in that person's eyes, in their expressions, or conversation? Pay attention to the surroundings everyone shares. Be part of and experience their world, and journey with them through their stories.

Play And Bonding Go Hand In Hand ... keep the boundaries of play at bay. Good humor and fun is key. If any aggression starts brewing, gently diffuse it and nip it in the bud, then walk away. Giving attention to the rough-housers only encourages them.

Look At Each Other ... look in the eyes of those around you. Nope not just a glance, either. Really look INTO the eyes. How can you not help seeing deep love within? The more anyone does this, the more connection there will be with every person they come in contact with.

Take A Nap Together ... leave the dishes. Join in the conversation and laughter. Everything doesn't have to be perfect or put away immediately. Let the sweet potato casserole harden in the bowl. Relax. Enjoy the closeness of loved ones. Close your eyes, feel the peace and gratitude in your heart, and give your guests lots of puppy schnuggles before they leave!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Clancy's Cackles

What bone will a dog never eat? *A trombone!*

What did one plate say to the other plate?

Dinner is on me!

What did the Dalmatian say after Thanksgiving dinner?

That hit the spot!

What do you get if you cross a pumpkin pie and a snake?

An orange pie-thon!

