

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #43 – Equal Rights (Civil Rights)



Maggie says ...

In these difficult times, as our nation and the world pull together, it is more important than ever to understand our role as a citizen.

Today's lesson is about EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL. Treating everyone with respect is important to us dogs – and to us as Americans! Throughout history, we have had brave Americans stick up for each other to make sure all our neighbors are

One of these heroes is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Every third Monday in January, the whole country takes a day to remember Dr. King's impact. He stood up for racial equality through peaceful protests and was a driving force behind the Civil Rights Act, which made racial segregation illegal. I think we should all try to respect others and support equality just like Dr. King did.

Sticky Situation: Dogs come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. One day, my favorite dog park put up a sign saying that dogs with floppy ears are no longer allowed to play in the park. Does this seem fair to you? How would you explain to the dog park owners that all dogs should be allowed to play in the park, no matter what their ears look like?

Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." In your own words, explain what you think Dr. King meant when he said this.

Activity: Equality means that everyone is treated the same, no matter what their gender, ability, or race is. Look at the 5 sentences below and circle all the sentences where people are treated equally.

Only boys can play at recess

Everyone is allowed to join the soccer team

Maggie loves playing with ALL kids!

Boys and girls can learn the same things at school

Only kids with blue eyes are allowed to join the dance class

Civics Resources: Watch this video of Martin Luther King, Jr. delivering his ["I Have a Dream" speech](#) to better understand his fight for equal rights for African Americans.