

Preventing Jumping Behaviors in Puppies

Jumping is a natural behavior for dogs, yet it often poses a challenge for pet owners. Puppies jump as a way to seek social attention and display affection. Given that dogs are inherently social animals, they make wonderful companions, but their enthusiasm can lead to unwanted jumping behaviors. Typically, a human's response inadvertently reinforces jumping by offering attention, verbal reprimands, or physical attempts to push the dog down. Unfortunately, many owners fail to realize that these actions inadvertently reward the undesired behavior.

Prevention and Management

Avoid encouraging your puppy to jump when excited. Instead, strive for calm social interactions and greetings. Always reward your puppy when all four paws are on the ground, without the need for a specific cue. Wait for moments when your puppy naturally sits, then promptly offer tasty treats, praise, and positive attention.

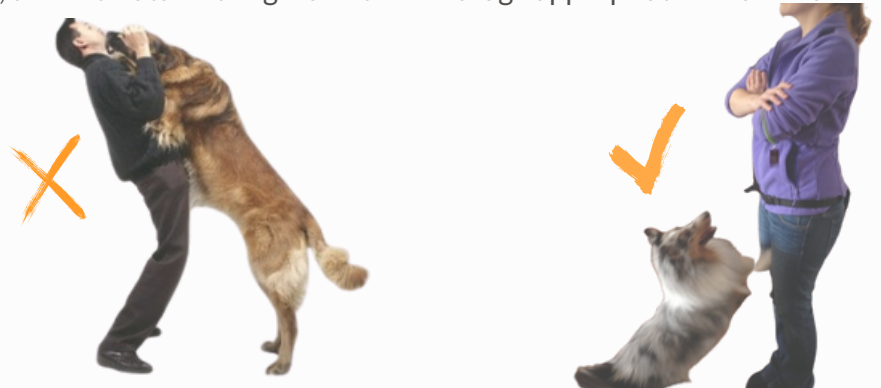
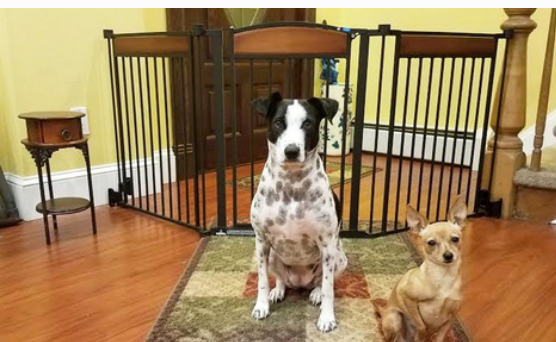
While many owners attempt to use cues like "sit" or "down" to deter jumping, these commands hold little meaning until they are consistently reinforced in a positive manner. Overusing these cues can inadvertently provide the attention the dog seeks and diminish their effectiveness. It's wise to address jumping behaviors when puppies are small, receptive, and eager to learn.

In situations where your puppy jumps, the most effective response is to withdraw attention entirely. Avoid making eye contact, speaking, or touching the puppy. Remain stationary and appear uninteresting. Your engagement and interaction with the puppy, even if unintentional, can reinforce the behavior.

Consider teaching your puppy that sitting is the behavior that leads to human interaction. By consistently rewarding sitting as the appropriate attention-seeking behavior, you can help your puppy understand and exhibit more desirable behaviors.

You can set your puppy up to be successful when guests arrive.

- Plan and place your puppy in a safe, comfortable space, like a crate or confined space. This prevents your puppy from accidentally being rewarded by guests.
- Have a gate that blocks your puppy from accessing guests that arrive. Briefly let guests know to ignore your puppy. Capture calm behaviors by rewarding all four's touching the ground.
- Approach guests at the front door while your puppy is on a leash. Make sure to reward calm behavior while walking up toward the door.
- Treat Bombs! When guests arrive unexpectedly, throw treats on the ground to encourage appropriate behavior and avoid jumping up on guests.



Helpful Hints

- Keep treats in your car. Grab a few before entering your home to greet your dog.
- Have treats close by the entrance of your home for quick rewards.
- Carry treats with you every time you go somewhere with your dog.
- The more you reward calm behavior, the greater the chance you'll have a dog that performs desirable behaviors.