

Problem Prevention: Jumping

Jumping is a natural behavior that dogs do but can be a nuisance behavior for most pet owners. Puppies jump to seek social attention and show affection. Dogs are social animals, that's why they make such great companions. The motivation for this behavior is excitement and social interaction. Typically, a human's response perpetuates jumping by looking, verbally punishing or pushing the dog to get down. Owners don't understand that their actions are rewarding this undesirable behavior.

Prevention and Management

Avoid encouraging your puppy to jump on you when excited. Social interactions and greetings should be calm. Reward all four paws on the ground whenever you see the opportunity. No cue required. Just wait till you capture the moment of a sitting puppy, follow this behavior by a few tasty treats, praise and positive attention. Although most dog owners like to use the cue "sit" or "down" to try and get their dog to stop jumping, the cue doesn't mean much until it has been positively reinforced. Repeated use of these cues not only give your dog the attention he is seeking for, but it also loses its value. It's a great idea to work on this behavior while puppies are small, young and eager to learn.

If you're in a situation where your puppy is jumping, for best results, withdrawal your attention from them fully. **No eye contact, say nothing, do not touch, stand still and just be boring!** Your attention and interaction will encourage this behavior.

Teach your puppy that sitting is the behavior that results human interaction. Thus, the act of sitting becomes an appropriate attention getting behavior.

Set your puppy up to be successful when guests arrive

- Plan ahead and place your puppy in a safe space he is most comfortable in like a crate or confined space. This prevents your puppy from accidentally being rewarded by guest.
- Have a gate that blocks your puppy to having access to 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 as your walking up towards the door.
- Treat Bombs! when guest arrive unexpectedly, throw a bunch of 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 in your home for quick rewards.
- Carry treats with you every time you go somewhere with your dog.
- The more you reward calm a behavior the greater chance that you'll have a dog that preforms desirable behaviors.