

Dealing with Excessive Jumping

In order to deal with undesirable behaviors, it is essential to understand the possible reasons for these behaviors.

Why do dogs jump?

- To greet you;
- To get attention from you;
- To get closer to your face.

What you can do

1. Be consistent

If anyone encourages your dog to jump up on some occasions, you are sending out a signal that jumping is okay. If you show displeasure for the same behavior, it will confuse your dog.

2. Give No Attention

Most dogs that jump up on people do so for attention. Many people may react by saying 'NO', pushing the dog to the ground, or staring at the dog. Your dog may see these reactions as a reward. You must COMPLETELY ignore your dog to extinguish the jumping behavior. You will notice that your dog may increase his/her jumping behavior before it begins to reduce.

3. Use Incompatible Behaviors

Give your dog an incompatible behavior to do. Your dog cannot sit and jump up at the same time. Before anyone gives your dog attention, have your dog SIT and STAY. If your dog starts to jump up, have the person stiffen and slowly turn away from your dog.

4. Prevention

Stop jumping before it starts. Step on your dog's leash, giving him just enough length to sit. Make sure the leash is short enough so your dog cannot jump. Start teaching your puppy not to jump the day you bring them home. Never start rewarding the behavior while he/she is a puppy, and it will not learn that jumping gets them attention.