

Putting an End to Jumping



Learning Shouldn't Hurt

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Counter Surfing



A huge pet parent pet peeve is a dog that steals food from tables, counters and even plates. Just like other behaviors, stealing food is rewarding.

Dogs are primarily scavengers and eat what they find off the ground, out of the trash, and even off the kitchen table. Dogs do not automatically know that taking food is wrong. They have to be trained and taught what behaviors are or are not acceptable.

The first thing to do is make sure a dog is never left unattended in an area where food is present. Clean off the counters, wash the dishes, put everything away.

Second, NEVER feed your dog from the kitchen counter or table. If they never get food from there, they'll be less likely to look for snacks there later.

Lastly, boundary train your dog to stay out of the kitchen or dining area. Use the "leave it" command to teach your dog to not touch.

Please call us at (775) 351-4854 for more information on boundary training and the "leave it" command.

Why Dogs Jump Up

Dogs jump because they want your attention. Truthfully, most bad dog behaviors happen because the dog gets a reward out of it. What reward does your dog get from jumping on people? YOUR ATTENTION! Think about it: No matter if you look at him, tell him no, tell him to get down, grab his front feet, step on his back feet, knee him in the chest, your dog got your attention! If we take away the attention, the jumping will stop.

Stop Jumping in 1 Step

If you don't want a dog that jumps, there is only one thing you have to do: NEVER give your dog attention for jumping!

Your dog does not exist unless it has all feet on the ground. Don't look at her, don't talk to her, don't touch her or acknowledge in any way that you are aware that there is a jumping dog trying to get your attention.

As soon as your dog puts all her feet on the floor, immediately say "Yes!" and praise her. Then come down to her level to help discourage jumping. If she jumps again, stand back up and ignore.

It will be difficult at first, but dogs are fast learners. Once your dog understands that there is no reward for jumping the behavior will stop. Some dogs are very persistent. They continue to jump, scratch and even end up nipping or biting at your body and clothes. This is what's known as *escalating the behavior*. Your dog knows that it got your



attention before, so they're going to try the same way again. If your dog doesn't take their paws off you, cross your arms and twist your body. This will cause the dog's feet to slide off you to the ground. Immediately praise when the dog's feet touch the ground.

Any person that interacts with your dog needs to be trained on how you want your dog to act. Different people have different expectations for their pets. Dogs thrive on consistency. There is always one neighbor or relative that doesn't follow the rules. They see your dog coming and are already excited. They encourage the dog to jump up and when you voice an objection the response is always the same, "But I don't mind if they jump up." Educating these people can be difficult. But if you let the dog jump up on them, the dog will jump up on others. Dogs don't understand "sometimes". Let people know they're welcome to pet your dog – as long as the dog has all its feet firmly on the floor. Within two weeks, if EVERYONE in the dog's life is consistent in behavior management, the dog will stop jumping.

Quick Tricks and Tips

Stop Jumping with a "Sit" There are situations where you KNOW your dog is more likely to jump up: when visitors first approach, when you walk in the door, when they're playing and excited. In these situations, you can stop jumping by making sure you have a good "sit" command. As your dog rushes up, practice "sit". Your dog can't jump and sit at the same time, and they get a reward for sitting. Soon your dog will be running up and offering a sit for attention.

Step on the Leash: With your dog in a sit, place your foot on the leash where the leash touches the ground. The dog will try to jump but the leash will prevent their feet from coming off the ground. Because the dog is not getting any attention from you, they will start to learn that jumping isn't acceptable.



Learning Shouldn't Hurt:

Some antiquated techniques to stop a dog from jumping, like kneeling them in the chest, serves only to hurt the dog. This is the equivalent of punching the dog in the chest. The whole point is to knock the air out of the dog. If you've ever had the air knocked out of you, remember how much it hurts.

You don't have to hurt your dog to teach your dog. Learning should be educational and fun.