

Common Questions – Simple Answers - Effective Solutions

Jumping

Why does Fido jump on me and on guests?

In most cases dogs jump to greet us. We stand erect they do not, therefore they jump to get closer to our faces. The attention they get (positive or negative) serves to reinforce the jumping.

Management

1. Kneel down to greet your dog. Have guests do the same.
2. Put Fido on leash and stand on the leash to physically prevent him from jumping
3. Put Fido in his crate or in another room until guests are in and settled
4. Hold Fido by the collar to prevent jumping

Training

1. Teach Fido to sit and always require a sit before Fido gets anything he likes including attention.
2. Teach Fido Sit/ Stay and gradually add in the distraction of a person approaching.
3. Have cookies by the door and ask Fido to sit for a cookie and your attention when you come in the door.
4. Walk into the room purposefully, taking control of the space in front of you. This will cause your dog to back up to get out of your way. Say OFF as you do so and eventually OFF will cause your dog to back up.
5. NEVER give attention to Fido if his feet are on you. Turn away or walk away.

Not Coming When Called

Why does Fido ignore me when I call?

Because it's fun to run free and because coming to you probably means something negative to the dog. If we look at when we call our dogs it is often to stop them from doing something we don't like, but *they* do (like chasing the cat or going to see the dog across the street). It doesn't take a bright dog long to learn that coming when called often means the end of fun stuff.

Management

1. Do not allow an untrained dog the freedom of running loose. Use a long line to allow running exercise while still maintaining control.
2. Fence your yard, so at least if he doesn't come right away he is relatively safe

Training

1. Actively teach your dog to come to you using food treats, favorite games and exciting praise as rewards.
2. Never call your dog in situations you can't control.
3. Never call your dog for negative things.
4. In a fenced area or with Fido on a long line walk around briskly and praise/ treat excitedly whenever Fido follows or moves toward you. Change direction often to keep your dog's attention. The more reinforcement Fido gets for orienting toward you the more attention he will pay to you in the future.
5. Hint: running away from your dog is more likely to get him to come to you than chasing him or yelling at him.

Destructive Chewing

Why does my dog chew on furniture and shoes when he has plenty of toys of his own?

Dogs chew because it feels good to them (particularly teething pups). A shoe feels just as nice to chew on as a rubber bone and smells like you as an added bonus! Dogs who choose a specific family member's belonging to chew may actually have a closer bond with that person. Playing with and chewing an object belonging to that person may bring the dog comfort when that person is not around.

Management

1. Dog proof the areas that your dog will have access to and supervise heavily when Fido is allowed in other areas.
2. Provide a variety of toys for Fido to chew on.
3. Use a dog crate for short periods of confinement- Leave a safe chew toy in the crate.

Training

1. Teach Fido to bring things to you rather than run away and hide with items.
2. Increase the amount of exercise that Fido is getting.
3. Leave Fido with Treat dispensing toys or stuffed toys in your absence.
4. Play with Fido with his toys so that he associates them with fun and attention.
5. Do not play chase when Fido steals an object. You're only making it more valuable. Instead make a big deal about playing with one of his toys and let him join you if he drops the other object.

Pulling on Leash

Why does Rover pull so much on leash?

Dogs pull on leash simply because it works! It gets them from point A to point B...quickly! The environment is very reinforcing! Every time you allow Rover to drag you to where he wants to go, pulling is being reinforced.

Management

1. Use a head halter or no pull harness to control your dog
2. Do not give your dog the full 6 feet of his leash. It only gives him more pulling power.

Training

1. While walking Rover use high-value treats/ favorite toys to reward Rover for walking close to you.
2. NEVER go forward if the leash is tight.
3. Change direction frequently and reward heavily when Rover follows closely.