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Jumping Dog

General Information

Jumping is a common unwanted doggy behavior. Even if you do not mind your dog jumping on you, teach your dog not to jump. Jumping can be viewed by others as annoying and can be dangerous. Even with a small or toy dog, jumping should not be tolerated. By understanding the causes of jumping and how to address the problem, you and your pup can have a wonderful human-animal bond.

Causes

In dog-to-dog communication, moving towards the face and jumping is common and may be seen as an act of being social. Although this is acceptable in dog-to-dog communication, jumping should be not be permitted in dog-to-human communication. Dogs often jump at or on things that excite them. With proper socialization and training, your dog will react less to these things. Socialize your dog to as many shapes, sounds, textures, experiences, and environments that you can. The more confident your dog is, the less unwanted behaviors, including jumping, will occur. Your dog gets some type of reward when he jumps. Otherwise, he wouldn't do it. All behaviors that are rewarded will be repeated. Figure out what he gets out of jumping, for example your attention, and remove it.

Addressing the Problem

It is important to first rule out any medical problems. Try to understand why your dog is jumping. You will then need to slowly reshape the dog's behaviors. Sometimes solutions will include tracking your dog's behavioral history, making environmental changes, and shaping the dog's behavior through consistent training and patience.

Teach your dog to offer a sit for all attention. Dogs repeat behaviors that are rewarded. When your dog jumps, he is seeking attention. The best practice is to ignore the attention-seeking behavior and acknowledge calm seated behaviors instead.

Here are some helpful tips to get a "jump-on" your dog's jumping problem:

- Exercise! A tired dog is a good dog.
- Teach a fast and reliable auto-sit using high-value rewards (favorite treats or toys)
- Ignore your dog for jumping and acknowledge only when all paws are on the floor
- Teach your dog "UP-UP" and "OFF" to ask them to jump up and off
- Behavior management - do not allow jumping behaviors
- Provide outlets for mental and physical energy
- Teach basic obedience and practice often
- Provide proper socialization to prevent unwanted behaviors
- Seek help from a professional when other options have been exhausted