

Jumping ON people (not to be confused with simply jumping up near people– hey Jack Russells love to jump)

by Fawn Pierre~SmartyPup!

Dogs crave and need physical contact, in order to get it they use basic doggie strategies--they bark, whine, paw and-- the one that seems to work the best on humans--they jump!

Jumping

Think about 3 strategies (behaviors) your puppy is using to that gets your attention (whether you like them or not). What are they?

Next, think about 3 strategies you do not want your puppy dog to use to get your attention.

Ok NOW think about acceptable strategies your puppy dog can use to get your attention. What are they and do they work?

Ok...see the problem?

So what is the solution? The first step is to change your own behavior: Start by giving giving attention to your puppy dog for other behaviors you find acceptable throughout the day... things like walking up to you, standing on all four paws, looking at you, sitting, playing with his toys, touching you with his nose, perhaps a small jump without making contact. Be proactive and as he walks up to you initiate first contact. By doing so you are reinforcing and rewarding a behavior that is not jumping up.

Don't start your anti-jump training only at times when he is already jumping on you or others and you need him not to jump -- that will quickly backfire on you. Why? If you only give feedback for the behaviors you don't want and you are still having problems with jumping up, then most likely your puppy finds your "punishment" strategy positively reinforcing. So, again, notice him when he is not jumping on you! This is the most important element of teaching your puppy dog not to jump on you. Giving him attention for not jumping up! Ask your friends to do the same.

Specific Training Sessions

Train yourself first!

Begin by praising and giving your dog attention and praising effusively for all 4 paws on the ground.

As soon as he jumps up on you, say nothing, avert eye contact, walk away or simply FREEZE! Not a peep from you until he is once again all 4 on the floor.

Immediately praise for all four on the floor--after several repetitions you can begin to clap, flail your arms in short THROW A PARTY FOR YOUR PUP BECAUSE HE HAS ALL 4 PAWS ON THE FLOOR!

You will repeat this process at least 10 times a session. You are not only training your puppy dog but also training yourself to give him attention for NOT jumping up. Repeat session throughout the day, everyday. Or if you don't want to practice everyday, let him jump up and think of a good excuse to give to strangers and friends, like he is jumping up because he likes you. Do you have a problem with that?

Approach and Sit

Call your puppy to you. When he is within one or two feet immediately give him the hand signal for sit. If your puppy does not sit immediately, start over and this time lure him into the sit with a treat.

When People Approach

Be proactive-- lure your puppy dog into a sit with a treat (always have some type of food rewards with you when you are out and about to help with the many distractions). You may also use the management technique described below. Remember that the victim will most likely say to you "oh, that's ok I like dogs" or " she's just a puppy give her a break". The bottom line is your puppy dog is your responsibility and if she is rewarded for jumping up (the reward is attention from the person she jumped up on) the jumping will continue. Puppies have what we call a "puppy license" which enables them to get away with just about anything, including jumping up. But in a few months people will not think jumping up is cute anymore. So get out there, be cool and be proactive!

Management Techniques

Everyone wants to pet your puppy and you can see them coming from a mile away-- they have "the look" that says "I am in love with your puppy, and you will stop and let me love him!". Since you know the routine prepare beforehand by doing the following: As the person nears you and your puppy dog step on the leash at a position where your pup is inhibited from jumping up. As your pup is standing there give praise and contact. You may also lure him into a sit as the person interacts with your pup. stops to interact with your pup do the following:

Correcting 'Jumping on you' Behavior

The biggest mistake we make when training our dogs is being reactive most of the time. We wait for a problem behavior to occur and then try and figure out how to stop

it, which usually turns into the only way your pup knows how to get attention from you and others: Jump up and people look at you--mission accomplished. Jump up and people push you off--what fun! Jump and the food gets knocked out of human hands...Yeeeeeeehaaa!

The best way to a well-behaved dog (and ultra-coolness) is to be proactive and not allow jumping up at all. Jumping on other people is not ok and can be scary to the unsuspecting jumpee. A well-behaved dog (by human standards) does not jump up on people unless invited.

When your puppy dog jumps up on somebody else, along with the suggestions above, here is what you do:

1. Tell him "Too bad" then calmly and matter of factually go get her--pick him up or grab by the collar (don't forget to do positive collar grabs later on) then;
2. Walk a few feet back from the person he jumped up on and tell your puppy dog "Try Again" Note: if this is a stranger you are working with you might decide to be economical with the truth. Tell them (after they have told you they don't mind a jumping dog) "he jumped up and knocked down a small child yesterday and I really need to teach him how to greet people properly". This white lie usually convinces people that you are not Cruella Deville, but instead a loving and caring dog owner who is simply trying to train your dog. Trust me, it works!

Up and Off

Teach your puppy dog the meaning of "up" and "off". If you let your pup on the couch you can use the couch, if not find a raised surface that your pup can jump on. Set yourself up with a reward like a treat or a valuable toy. Say "Up, Up" and lure and pat the surface you want your puppy dog to jump on (it could also be you). Once your pup is on the surface praise verbally, "Good Dog!" Next say "off" and lure the puppy dog to the floor. Once the pup is on the floor give the reward. Repeat several times.