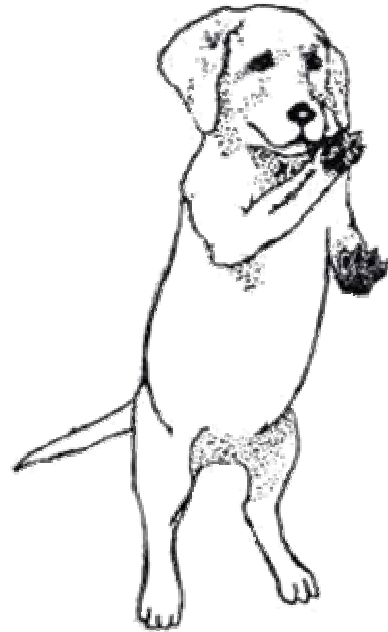


JUMPING UP

By Terena and Nancy

Dogs that delight in rebounding off your body in a joyous explosion of energy can be hard to live with. Some owners feel bad about putting a damper on such joy, however, your dog can channel that ricocheting energy into his tail where it belongs! An enthusiastically wagging tail is much safer than being hit, scratched, and shoved in your own doorway! This can cause damage resulting in dental work, stitches, and even severe injury such as a broken hip as you get hit off balance. Even your dry cleaning bill will be better with muddy paws trained to the floor! Dogs jump on people for different reasons. Following are specific cures for each motive.

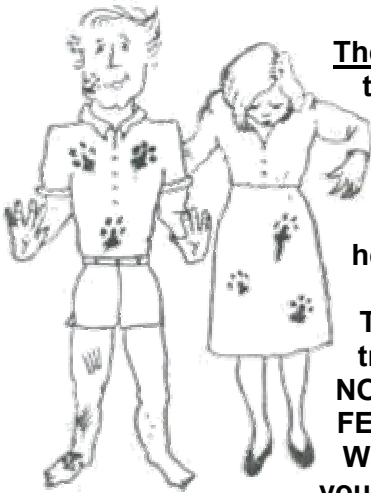


Puppies that have not started this rude rebounding can be prevented from ever beginning it. Crouch to your pup and greet in a calm unexcited manner. This is to avoid over exciting him at your greeting. Pet gently for 10 to 15 seconds while he sits. **PET ONLY WHEN ALL FOUR FEET ARE ON THE FLOOR!**

Dominant dogs like to reestablish who the boss is as the human competitor enters the dog's home. Paws on top means the dog rules the roost (to the dog). This dog desperately needs obedience training to assure him that his humans are in command of the home. A dog with a dominance problem should always be stepped toward (**NEVER AWAY FROM**) as he is jumping up. A quick step toward and a deep thunderous command to "GET OFF!" will teach him that you do not like it. Many people mistakenly tell the dog to "get down". "Down" means to lie down and may cause great confusion for the dog.

Misguided owners reward their dogs for jumping up and then are unhappy when they jump! To a dog physical contact is interpreted as a reward. An owner in the process of putting the dog back down to the floor often pushes the dog down or holds the dog and lowers it down. This dog loves it and comes right back for more! **NEVER PUT YOUR HANDS ON A LEAPING DOG!!**

Another technique used by misguided owners is to wind their dog up like a tight spring and complain when it recoils! An excited, jubilant greeting emotionally keys the dog up. All of that energy has to go somewhere! It's like lighting rockets under the dog! They shoot straight up!! **ALWAYS GREET YOUR DOG QUIETLY AND CALMLY!**



The most common reason dogs jump up on people is to get closer to your mouth to greet you. The canine method of greeting is to lick at the mouth of the returning pack member. Most humans don't care to be welcomed with claws and saliva! Your welcoming committee of leaping enthusiasm means well but must learn a more acceptable way to say, "I'm glad you're here!"

The cure for the wild welcome wagon or the unintentionally trained leaper is the same. Immediately pass a household law. . NO ONE PUTS HANDS ON THE DOG EVER UNLESS ALL FOUR FEET ARE ON THE FLOOR!! When you come home ignore the dog. Walk right past him! Do NOT stop to allow him to jump all over you. When you are in another room, have your dog "sit". While he is sitting, pet and speak softly to him. Sit near, crouch down, or bend over your quietly sitting pooch. This will bring your face closer to his and appease his need to jump. After your calm greeting, go on about your business. You can play ball or take him for a walk later. Do not play with your dog when you first return home.

To train your hopping hound not to jump on other people requires a different technique. First train your dog to sit and stay on command with no distractions. During training always keep a leash by the front door. Before allowing guests to enter, attach the lead and command your dog to "sit". Have him stay as you let your visitors in. When your callers are seated, walk with your dog at heel into the room. Have your student lie down and stay at your feet for 10 to 15 minutes as you visit with your guests. If your dog has relaxed, release and praise him quietly. If he is still excited, have him stay until he unwinds.

This cure requires practice. A fun way to train your buoyant bowser to be well mannered with guests is to have a no-jumping party! Call some relatives and friends to come to your training party. Have snacks prepared to offer them in return for helping you train. As each guest arrives and you and your dog practice greeting them it will get easier each time. In a short time your canine problem will be conquered!

JUMPING ON FURNITURE

Some dogs love to get on the furniture. There are several reasons for this.

One reason, of course, is comfort! Someone showed the dog how comfortable it is on the bed, couch, or chair by inviting the dog up. One invitation means that it is forever allowed (to the dog)! Dogs do not understand inconsistency. They are allowed up ALWAYS OR NEVER!! There is no compromising canine thinking. The invitation must be revoked permanently!! Command "GET OFF!!" Do NOT touch the dog until he is off, then, pet and praise!

Some canines are window-watchers. The furniture is just an elevator for them to see better. Rearranging the furniture with none under that favorite window will stop that quickly. Blocking off the entire room from the dog works well, too. Just close the door or put up a baby gate.



Missing the master can create a furniture sitter. A lonely dog will locate the strongest scent of his master to stay close to. Your side of the bed, favorite chair, or even where you sat last before leaving are all magnets to the lonely dog.

In this case, give him his very own scented object to carry with him! Before leaving rub your hands thoroughly on a latex toy or rawhide bone for a minute or two. Hand this scented gift to your four-footed furniture sitter and leave calmly. Keep this toy put away to use only when you are gone.

Booby traps often need to be used in conjunction with these other remedies. These traps need to work while you are away. “Snappy trainers” are handy for large dogs. Set them on the cushions where you expect a problem. Set aluminum foil sheets in the spots you want to make too crunchy for comfort. Sometimes mousetraps set underneath newspapers works well as a double insurance.

This problem takes some time to correct. Just keep at it and soon the furniture will be yours again!

In the event that none of the above mentioned techniques work with your dog the Canine Country School offers in house consultations in which a training method is particularly designed for your needs. Please call for more information.

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