

Stop your dog jumping up

This training exercise is to stop your dog jumping up. Although all dogs should not jump up this training plan is useful especially if you have children or frail people in your household that may get hurt if your dog jumps up at them.

What you need to start training

Dog treats, voice, collar and lead on the dog

Method

Start to practice in a area of your home that has minimal distractions around you, have lots of treats available and your dog close by, you can do this activity by either sitting or standing. If you hold a treat near to your dog they should move to take the treat. If he goes to snatch pull the treat away and use a keyword like No! or Ah, Ah, Ah!. Offer the food if your dog gently touches your hand with its nose. Re-enforce the good behavior with a positive word i.e. good! If your dog sits or lies down instead of jumping up this is very good and should be rewarded, however try not to use any command words at this stage because you do not want to confuse the behavior with other training you may want to i.e. down or sit.

Once your dog is responding as required and is sitting, standing or lying down and in other words just behaving nicely for attention, in the same area you can move to another venue in the house, and carry on as before, but now expecting the nice behavior to last a little longer. As the behavior takes shape start to delay the interval of treat giving. A gentle touch on your hand with the dog's nose is rewarded with a treat and the positive word. Snatching is not encouraged, the treat is refused and the corrective keyword is used i.e. No, or Ah, Ah, Ah is used to suppress the inappropriate behavior.

Once the dog has developed behavior of not jumping up all the time, you can start to practice in different areas and with different distractions around you. If there are problems with your dog consistently jumping, lunging or snatching return to the beginning of the training.

The area and place of greatest excitement is usually when you return to your dog after a night's sleep, day at work etc. The high level of activity from your dog at this time is natural, but it can be trained out into a degree of control even in the youngest of puppies. The essential ingredient is patience on your part, if you loose control at any stage just back up and re-train a stage before.

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