



## **JUMPING**

Jumping is a way for a dog to attract its owner's attention but most owners don't want dogs to jump on them for any reason, that is a recipe for disaster. Owners usually do not understand that dogs crave attention so desperately that they will even take **NEGATIVE** attention over no attention at all. This means, even if you believe you are "correcting" a dog for jumping, you may actually be encouraging it to jump more! Some dogs will continue to jump even when owners abuse them by hitting, kicking, kneeling, or pinching them.

There is only one sure way to stop a dog from jumping - stop **REWARDING** your dog for it! How? Especially when what you consider to be abuse the dog seems not to be working? Take away what the dog wants: **ATTENTION!**

We have established that dogs will jump for attention. Now we have to find a way to deny the dog the attention it wants and keep the dog from jumping on you or anyone else. First, **NEVER** look at, touch, talk to, yell at, punish, hit, kick, knee, pinch, or do anything else to a jumping dog - **EVER!!!** No exceptions.

We realize this advice **SOUNDS** more simple than it sometimes is. There are dogs who claw while jumping, standing or on the way down. There are dogs too big for you to stand firm and ignore when they jump on you. Finally, there are dogs that go airborne and bounce off their owners. However, this technique works, if applied correctly, although sometimes a little modification may be required.

Assuming that your dog is not too large or does not have other problems along with jumping like nipping or biting, try ignoring the behavior. Simply **IGNORE** the dog until all four of its feet are on the ground. **THEN**, and only then, should you look at it, pet it, and reward it with attention and possibly a treat or some play time. If your dog starts jumping again, start ignoring it again. Do this consistently. Yes, at first, you will be bobbing up and down like one of those little hood ornaments from the 60's. Remember, pay attention to your dog **ONLY** when all of its feet are on the ground. Retraining your dog may be as simple as ignoring it each and every time it jumps.

If your dog is too big, or for some other reason, too difficult to ignore, you may need to go one step further. Get a leash and whenever you are around the dog, put the leash on the dog **IMMEDIATELY**. Let the dog drag the leash around. Whenever the dog is close enough to you to jump on you - **STAND ON ITS LEASH**. You should make sure there is not enough "slack" in the leash for the dog to jump as your goal is to prevent the dog from jumping. If you step on the leash but need to make it shorter to prevent the dog from jumping, simply walk up the leash to the point the dog can start to jump but cannot get its front feet more than a few inches off the ground. When it jumps, the leash and collar will "correct" the dog and prohibit its jumping. Reward your dog with attention when all its feet are on the ground. Ignore its attempts to jump.

Whichever method you choose, **DO NOT LOOK AT OR SCOLD THE DOG WHEN IT JUMPS**, or **INTERACT** with it in any way whatsoever until its feet are on the ground again, then give it the **POSITIVE** attention it craves!

If the above suggestions fail to stop the dog from jumping after 3 or 4 weeks, use the standing on the leash method and, when the dog jumps, make a negative sound like "ANGGH" when the dog jumps and the leash corrects it. Immediately escort the dog to its kennel and leave it there for a minimum of 10 to 15 minutes while ignoring it.

Remember, your dog did not learn this behavior overnight. It may take a while for the dog to learn jumping does not get it the attention that it wants. Be consistent and your dog will learn not to jump on you, usually within a week or two, although occasionally it may take longer, especially if it has been jumping on you for some time. Finally, it may need an occasional reminder should it relapse, after a few "reminders" the problem usually goes away permanently.