

JUMPY AND MOUTHY DOGS

A.D.O.P.T. PET SHELTER

WHAT IS A JUMPY/MOUTHY DOG?

A Jumpy/Mouthy dog is typically a dog with a very playful, energetic and spirited personality. They like to jump up to say hello, or get so aroused they start to use their mouths to grab onto hands, arms, jackets, leashes, etc. These are natural responses for dogs, especially for dogs who have never been taught how to properly say hello. Jumpy/Mouthy dogs are not aggressive, they just can't seem to contain their excitement!

Dogs can be Jumpy/mouthy for a number of reasons. Most commonly, they are doing it as a way to seek attention from people. They can also do it to initiate or continue play, to say hello, or as a way of expressing frustration.

TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR JUMPY/MOUTHY DOGS

- Since jumping up is most like attention-seeking behavior, giving a dog who is jumping up attention, ANY attention (including telling the dog 'no!' or pushing him off of you), is actually reinforcing the behavior. The first step is to teach your dog that this behavior will not give them what they want is to ignore the behavior, turn away from the dog, and fold up your arms until they offer something better (standing on the floor, sitting, lying down, etc.).
- If your dog continues to jump up on you, walk away, tether them, or put them in a room or behind a gate for a few minutes. If you are outside, you can step on the leash (but give them enough leash so that they can stand, sit, or lay down comfortably).
- Teach your dog a sit cue. A dog cannot sit and jump at the same time!
- Be proactive- Always reward appropriate behavior when you see it.
- Redirect mouthy behavior to appropriate items- teach your dog how to play tug, give them long lasting treats and chew items (such as bully sticks, frozen Kong toys, etc.), or a toy to hold in their mouths.
- Take toys and treats with you on every walk so you can reward appropriate behavior when it happens and redirect inappropriate behavior.
- Stay calm, and do not pull up on the leash (which can actually encourage jumping) or jerk back on the leash (which can injure the dog's neck)
- Be consistent- instruct guests in the home or people on walks to ignore the dog for jumping up
- Set your dog up for success- until your dog starts to calm down when guests arrive, have your dog on leash whenever you have visitors so that that your dog doesn't have a chance to practice unwanted behaviors.

- When you do treat your dog, hold treats low (at knee level) or toss them on the ground to both reward your dog for keeping his/her paws on the ground, and to prevent them from jumping up for the treat.
- NEVER hold your dog to the ground, knee the dog in the chest, hold their snouts closed, or step on their toes to prevent jumping and mouthing. This doesn't teach your dog anything and can actually cause physical and mental harm to the dog, and can potentially make behaviors worse.

For more tips or exercises you can practice, visit www.clickertraining.com or talk to a qualified positive reinforcement trainer. A.D.O.P.T. has a list of trainers all across the Chicagoland area we highly recommend and provide to you.