



## Jumpy / Mouthy Dogs

Congratulations on adopting your new family member!

Dogs who jump up and mouth are either trying to play, saying hello, or trying to get attention. They are usually puppies and adolescent dogs who have not been trained to have good manners.

The recommendations below, will help you be able to teach your new canine family member not to jump on people and mouth them.

It's pretty simple!

Encourage your dog to play and greet politely and discourage the unacceptable behaviors of jumping up and mouthing.

ENCOURAGE your dog to play and greet politely. Make sure you praise your dog each time he or she does what you ask.

- Teach your new dog to play fetch with either a ball or a plush toy.

Praise for picking up the toy.

Praise for bringing it to you.

- Teach your dog that you will not greet him unless he sits.

Praise your dog for sitting.

- Whenever you do things that bring on jumping or mouthing (petting, leashing), offer your dog a favorite toy. To make the toy come "alive", toss it away from your dog.

- Make sure your dog gets plenty of mental and physical exercise. You can:

Set up play times with other dogs.

A game of fetch or tug is also a good way for your dog to burn off energy.

Puzzles and enrichment toys are great for mental stimulation.

DISCOURAGE unacceptable jumping up and mouthing behavior.

- Let the dog clearly know that you are not interested in this form of play by:

o Turning your back on your dog and becoming a "statue" (stand still, arms crossed and ignore). When he gives you a desirable behavior such as 4 feet on the floor or a sit, you can reengage with your dog.

o If your dog does not get the idea, give him alone time. Either walk out of the room or put him in his/her safe space alone. Removing attention is key to helping to decrease the likelihood of the behavior. Time alone should be short, such as 5 or 10 minutes before you try and engage again

- Avoid wrestling games with your dog. It encourages your dog to play roughly with people.

If your dog's exuberant behavior continues to be a problem, PLEASE CALL our Behavior Department for more helpful tips or trainer recommendations.

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