

# Jumping

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Most dogs engage in friendly jumping as a way to get up to your face to say "Hi!" The dog should first be encouraged and consistently rewarded for approaching people and sitting. To make this very clear to the dog, you should only pet, praise and treat you dog when it is sitting. You should instruct other people the dog comes into contact with to do the same.

If the dog does jump, the person receiving the jump should simply turn away from the dog for 2-3 seconds. They should also keep an eye on the dog so they can see the moment the dog is no longer jumping. After the dog has been on the ground for at least 2 seconds, come to the dog's level to discourage jumping then praise and pet.

Most dogs learn very quickly that they will be ignored unless they are in a sitting position. It is important that the dog be back on the floor for at least 2 seconds before being praised. You may also keep a leash on the dog any time he is around people. Anyone near the dog should just stand on the leash. This stops the dogs jumping when his paws are only one inch off the ground, not all the way up on your chest. This is also the easiest way to de-sensitize the dog to all the things that normally make dogs jump.

Stand on the leash and hold things over the dogs head, wave and flap your hands and lean over a bit and speak sweetly to the dog. If you are consistent, the dog will start to interpret these things as times when he definitely shouldn't jump because the leash has stopped him abruptly so many times.

If you have a guest that will not or cannot participate in ignoring the dogs jumping, stepping on the leash and rewarding sitting, **you must take control of the situation**. The dog must be on-leash so you may administer a leash correction if the dog starts to jump on the guest. Timing of the leash correction is critical. **The correction will be most effective if it occurs as the dog is starting to jump**. If you wait until the dog's paws are already on the guest, it may take the dog a bit longer to learn to stop jumping on guests. To avoid having the dog make a negative association to the guest, be sure to give the dog at least 10 pleasant interactions with the guest after 1 correction.

Here is an example of how most people address their dogs jumping:

You bring home a cute little puppy and allow him to jump all over everyone. No one cares because he is so little and cute! Then, one day after the puppy has grown a little and the newness has worn off, someone decides that it's not cute anymore! Everyone agrees that something must be done! That's when the owners start to correct it. These corrections usually consist of pushing the puppy away and saying no! At the same time, everyone ignores the puppy whenever he does happen to approach properly because it is easy to ignore a quiet, calm puppy.

This routine continues and the puppy not only continues to jump, but may think it is a game! The owners get more and more frustrated and gradually correct the dog more strongly over time. However, this allows the puppy to become accustomed to the stronger corrections. If

the owners had executed a handful of proper corrections at the beginning, in conjunction with rewarding the appropriate behavior of sitting, they would have a happy, sitting puppy.

**Some of the corrections available are:**

1. **Stepping on the leash:** This is our favorite "correction" because the dog actually corrects himself the moment he starts to jump and the dog doesn't see the owner actually doing anything to correct him. The owner can just stand there and entice the dog to jump by leaning over slightly and speaking sweetly to the dog, holding food treats and toys above his head or patting their chest. The dog can quickly learn from these "set-ups" that he will be corrected every time he jumps. The dog should only be praised and rewarded after he has not jumped for at least two long seconds.
2. **Squirting water in the dog's face:** This corrections work the best with the very young and very old – who typically do not have the strength to step on the leash or administer a correction.may work if the dog really hates water. Be careful to keep the squirt bottle hidden since the dog can learn to watch for the squirt bottle. You may add vinegar or lemon juice to the water to increase its effectiveness. The vinegar or lemon juice should not comprise more than 1/3 of the liquid you are using. Praise and reward the dog only after he has not jumped for at least two long seconds.
4. **Shaking aluminum can full of pennies (shaker can):** This method has the same drawback as a squirt bottle since the dog can learn to look out for it. Don't use this method on young puppies (up to 18 weeks old) or dogs that appear to be sound sensitive. **Remember, a correction should only stop the behavior, not make the dog fearful.** Be especially careful with puppies in their fear imprint period between 8-12 weeks of age. Praise and reward the dog only after he has not jumped for at least two long seconds.
5. **Leash correction:** This technique may be very effective if administered at an appropriate level. However, the dog is usually highly aware that someone is handling the leash. It is helpful to have the person administering the correction stand back from the jumping event. Everyone should act as though the whole thing is a surprise since the dog will instantly try to determine who gave the correction. Make sure you give the dog at least 10 positive experiences after each physical correction so the dog does not make a negative association to the people he has been jumping on.
6. **Electronic collar:** This technique has been effective on some persistent jumpers that have become de-sensitized to the gradual escalation of other corrections. The dog must first get de-sensitized to wearing the collar 8-10 hours a day for at least one week before use. The electronic collar makes it easy for everyone to act nonchalant at the moment the correction is given, since no one needs to be handling a leash. If the dog is properly de-sensitized to the collar, there is little chance that the dog would realize that the shock came from the collar. Timing is extremely critical. Only an experienced trainer should operate an electronic collar. The trainer must know the dog well enough to determine the appropriate level to use and understand the 1/2-second lag-time of the signal from the

transmitter to the collar. Also, the trainer must know the dog's temperament well and be ready for an aggressive reaction to the electronic stimulation of the collar.

There are two techniques that **should not** be employed to deter jumping. The first is stepping into the dog. This technique may injure the dog as he topples over backward. The second is holding the dog's paws until he "wants them back". This may frustrate the dog and cause him to mouth or nip the owner's hands.

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