

Common Dog Behavior Issues

We love our canine companions- despite the fact that they may do things that are frustrating, annoying, or just plain rude. But don't despair! These behaviors are totally normal and have some simple solutions.



JUMPING ON PEOPLE

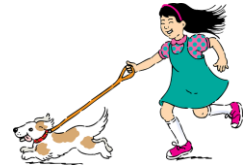
- **Why they do it:** Looking for attention/social interaction & this behavior often gets a response.
- **What to do about it:** Turn your back and ignore the dog until s/he is no longer jumping.
- **Things that can make the problem worse:** If the dog is scolded, petted or spoken to when s/he jumps up, this just reinforces the behavior because they're getting a response from you.

JUMPING ON COUNTERS

- **Why they do it:** Curiosity! There might be something tasty to eat!
- **What to do about it:** Keep your counters clear of food/edible items. Don't allow unsupervised access to the kitchen. Interrupt and redirect the behavior when you catch your dog in the act.
- **Things that can make the problem worse:** Each time the dog jumps up on the counter and finds something tasty to eat, the behavior will be reinforced and they'll want to do it again!

PULLING ON LEASH

- **Why they do it:** Excitement & curiosity! They want to get there faster.
- **What to do about it:** When your dog begins to pull, calmly stop walking or begin backing away from your dog until the dog gives you his/her attention, relieving tension on the leash. Only continue to move forward when the leash is loose. We recommend a Gentle Leader or Easy-Walk harness & lots of patience- it might take you a while to get there at first, but most dogs learn quickly!
- **Things that can make the problem worse:** Allowing your dog to drag you towards their destination; walking your dog without the proper equipment (Flexi-leashes are nice, but difficult to control your dog with!).



DESTRUCTIVE CHEWING



- **Why they do it:** To alleviate boredom, excess energy, anxiety, &/or stress; Puppies may be teething
- **What to do about it:** Provide your dog with lots of exercise and opportunities for appropriate mental stimulation (food puzzles, appropriate chew toys, training exercises, etc.); prevent unsupervised access to the items being chewed upon (i.e. your shoes, the couch); Interrupt and redirect the behavior when you catch the dog in the act.
- **Things that can make the problem worse:** Allowing your dog unsupervised access to commonly chewed items; Lack of sufficient exercise and/or mental stimulation.