



# SAN TAN CANINE TRAINING NEWSLETTER

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## How To Keep Your Dog From Jumping Up on People

Dogs often jump up on people. They stand on their rear legs with their front paws on the person. This is normal behavior for a young dog. Young puppies jump up on each other or their parents. Puppies of our domestic dogs do the same. Jumping up serves both as play and to teach them how to act as a predator or how to challenge other pack members in the dominance hierarchy. In some homes, puppies are encouraged to jump up on their owners. Obviously, this is a mistake. While it may be seen as cute or as a sign of affection while the puppy is small, it can be terrifying when done by a 100-pound canine.

Numerous owners complain about their dogs doing this. They shout "No" or "No, get down" or any of a wide range of phrases that make perfect sense to them, but that are not understood by the dog. They scream and punish the animals, but little seems to help. Some of these actions may excite the dog even more, and when this occurs, nothing is learned.

This behavior can be eliminated completely in a week or less, and there is no need to say anything. You need to communicate to the pet that this is not acceptable behavior and should not be done, but do not waste words or try to make up new phrases to correct it.

### Body Block

As the animal starts to jump up on you, turn sideways and either extend your leg or lean over and with your hip give a body block so that the dog never even gets its paws on you. Once the dog has its front paws on you, it already has got what it wants.

When the dog has all four feet on the floor, immediately squat down and give it attention. The dog will soon learn that by sitting quietly with all four feet on the floor it will get what it wants.

### Too late

What if the dog surprised you and got its feet on you before you had a chance to block the dog. Do NOT push the dog away with your hands. Many dogs think that is play. Some people lightly step on the toes of one of the animal's rear feet, but not enough to hurt the dog. All you want to do is make something that is fun suddenly uncomfortable to them. Say nothing. Do not waste "No" on this kind of behavior. Remember, you are not going to step down on the toes and make the animal yip in pain.

Done consistently, either of these actions will eliminate jumping behavior.

## How To Stop Your Puppy From Nipping and Biting

A puppy likes biting and chewing on almost anything that enters its world. Just as with jumping, biting between littermates is their style of play. Biting also teaches them how to use their main hunting tool, their mouth with all those teeth. Unfortunately, this often carries over into their interactions with the members of their new home. All the people, including the children, are brought into the game. Puppies have very sharp teeth, and a bite or nip can hurt and be terrifying to small children. There are several methods that are used to eliminate this behavior.

### Startle Response and Redirection

Just as the puppy bites down, make a sudden, abrupt, high-pitched and loud 'AWRP' sound. This would be the same sound that a littermate would make if bitten by the puppy. The sound should be so sudden and sharp that the puppy is immediately startled and stops the behavior. If done correctly, you will be surprised at how instantly the pup removes his mouth and looks bewildered. At that point,

quickly substitute a toy, such as a ball, the puppy can chew on. This redirects the puppy's biting behavior to the ball. This way the puppy learns it is no fun at all biting you, but chewing on the toy is. You may need to do this multiple times if the puppy gets excited in play. If the 'AWRPs' make the puppy more excited, try another approach.

### Stop the Action

Immediately (and dramatically) leave the room when the puppy bites. This is certainly a method children can use. After multiple times, the puppy will learn that every time it bites it loses its playmate, and that is no fun at all.

### Important Prevention Measures!

No matter what method you use, do not entice the puppy to bite you. Games like tug-of-war and waving your hands in front of the puppy instead of using toys may encourage the puppy to bite.

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## How To Control Chewing Behavior

Don't give your puppy an old shoe or sock to chew on. Puppies don't understand the difference between new and old.

Puppies chew on whatever they can get their mouths on for any number of reasons: they are bored, they have a lot of energy, they are teething, or they are just curious. Dogs learn through their mouths. It is their tool; it is how they receive a great deal of information. They are naturally inclined to use their mouths whenever they can.

Fortunately, most destructive chewing behavior can be prevented or controlled. To prevent problem chewing and to direct your pup's natural inclination to chew toward appropriate objects, follow these simple guidelines:

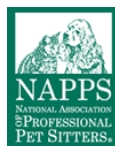
- **Puppy-proof the confined area.** If possible, remove all items your puppy can chew on, including socks, shoes, furniture, plants, etc., from any area in which you confine your puppy. Make sure electrical cords are out of reach.
- **Confine your pup** in a crate, cage, or puppy-proofed area when you are away. Because puppies learn with their mouths, giving your teething puppy free rein in the house is asking for trouble. Keep them confined; you do not want them to go to school on your expensive living room furniture. Make sure to supply the puppy with appropriate chew toys so the puppy has something to do and to teach the puppy what to chew on.
- **Closely supervise your uncrated pup.** Not unlike caring for a toddler, you should always be aware of where your uncrated pup is and what he is doing.
- **Give your puppy chew toys.** The sole focus of your dog's chewing should be directed toward items you select. There are a wide range of items to choose from, including Gumabone and Nylabone-type products. There are also many safe, long-lasting chew toys that are made especially for teething puppies that will keep them occupied and content for hours. Examples would be knotted rawhide and durable rubber teething products, like Kong toys, that satisfy your puppy's need for chewing and gum stimulation. The items should not be similar to articles you do not want your puppy to chew. Your puppy can not tell the difference between your new dress shoes and an old tattered pair.
- **Make departures low key** to avoid causing separation anxiety, which is often expressed through nonstop barking, whining, or destructive chewing. Before you leave, add your scent to your dog's toy. Rub the bone between your hands and give it to your pup 15 minutes before you leave. This should keep the puppy occupied so you can leave without a fuss being made.
- **Give your puppy plenty of exercise** to relieve boredom and burn off energy – two significant factors contributing to destructive chewing. An hour of running, walking, and/or swimming twice a day is ideal.
- **Correct chewing of inappropriate objects.** If you catch your pup in the act of chewing anything but his chew toy, remove the object and replace it with an acceptable chew toy. If your pup then chews on the toy, praise him. You always want to reinforce desired behavior with praise. If possible, treat the 'inappropriate object' with a product designed to deter chewing, such as Grannick's Bitter Apple or Drs. Foster and Smith Chew Stop that will give it a bad taste.
- **Teach your pup to ignore non-toy objects** if he consistently chews the wrong things. Place tempting objects on the floor along with your pup's chew toy and pretend not to pay any attention to him. If (and usually when) he starts to put his mouth over one of the forbidden objects, correct with a firm 'No!' and point out his bone. Once he learns he can only have the toy when you are in the room, it is time to leave the room for short intervals.

If your puppy chews on forbidden objects after you leave the room, your quick return will catch him in the act, the only time when corrective action should be taken. Again, give him the toy, and praise if it is accepted. If he is chewing forbidden objects but you cannot catch him, he should be crated when unsupervised until he learns what is and is not acceptable to chew on. Make sure to leave several appropriate dog toys and bones accessible at all times. It helps to have a certain location such as a basket that contains the dog's toys where he can go to get one when he wants.

The obvious purpose of this training is to prepare your puppy for the day when he can be trusted to be alone in the house and not confined.

*Resource: PetEducation.com*

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