

## Jumping up and greeting

Jumping up can be a huge problem with young dogs there is a temptation for them to want to get themselves up to face height to communicate with you, this can soon become a habit and as a dog grows larger it can cause problems.

When educating the dog to do anything simple rule to remember is it's impossible to teach a dog what not to do but it is possible to teach them what to do.

You need to work on providing your dog with an alternative behaviour this is the behaviour that you want your dog to do instead of jumping up in most cases people request a dog to sit.

Start teaching your dog to sit by placing them in the sit position verbally and physically rewarding them each time they do it.

Start to use a hand signal to demonstrate the dog that you want them to sit this can be such as showing the palm of your hand in the stop action or clicking your fingers always associated initially alongside the verbal sit command.

Repetition is the key you will need to do this thousands of times before the behaviour becomes imprinted.

Once you have taught the sit command you can start to think about putting it into practice at the times were jumping up as a problem again the most common time is when somebody is coming through the front door.

Begin by answering the door with your dog on a lead when the dog jumps up the lead will restrain them but it is important that you do not acknowledge the behaviour at all, negative acknowledgement is still acknowledgement so telling the dog off is rewarding the behaviour.

You should give the hand signal and verbal sit command immediately and if the dog sits the behaviour should instantly be rewarded.

Again repetition is the key and also consistency everybody must do the same it only takes one person to reward a dog jumping up and it can set you back weeks so if you are not confident that you can control the situation at the door you should change your routine so the dog does not have access to the door until you are able to control the situation.

Once an acceptable behaviour pattern is established in the home it can start to extend to when you're out and about again you must always remain in control and establish your commands prior to the dog making any unwelcome jumping up advances.

For example when I am out walking my young dogs if I see a jogger or another person in the distance I will recall them immediately and placed them on the lead so I have control of the situation I will then encourage the person to pass at a suitable distance while the dog is in the sitting position and being rewarded to do so I am therefore teaching the dog that it is more positive to come to me and be rewarded then is to go and jump up at the stranger.

Young dogs can be challenging and there will be occasions where things fall flat on their face and go wrong it's always a case of not chucking the towel in and just stepping up your training a bit more as with anything the training it's always repeat times 10 million.