

Jumping Up on People.

Jumping up, like many things dogs do that we (their people) look on as misbehaviors are, in fact, normal behaviors for a dog. Jumping is how two friendly dogs greet each other. This is how they say hello.

Most people, even though they may not say so, do not like it when dogs jump up on them, dirty their clothes or snag a new sweater/stockings/pants. Unfortunately, there is no magic switch to turn the dog off from this behavior. A little training though, to teach the dog to SIT on command, will help solve it. Request an incompatible behavior from the dog. If the dog is sitting, he cannot be jumping up. The dog must learn to greet people in a stationary position. When the excitement is over and the environment is calm again, the dog can then be released to greet the people in a calmer manner. Needless to say, it could take lots of practice and repetition for some dogs to master this, depending on their excitement level and sociability, but with patient and consistent help most can learn it.

The people must keep their hands low. Raising the hands up encourages the dog to jump up following the upward motion. Keeping hands low and open flat with palms toward the dog will help block his upward motion.

Any behavior that is not reinforced will extinguish itself. Nothing happens between people and the dog until his feet are on the floor. Do not push him. This is interaction between people and the dog, is reinforcing and will create a game called "I jump, you push". Fun for the dog; not so fun for people. The only time the dog gets attention is when all four feet are on the floor.

The Humane Society offers three Puppy & Dog Training Classes each week— Wednesday at 11 AM, Thursday at 7 PM and Saturday at 1 PM. The class is a 6-week session; each once-a-week class is about 1 hour. For information contact Connie at 772-388-3331, Ext. 19.