



LARIMER HUMANESOCIETY

Guide to Jumpy/Mouthy Behavior

Jumpy and mouthy behaviors are most commonly done as a dog plays or greets a person. These behaviors are not intended to cause harm; however, some very exuberant dogs can cause injury. These dogs should be monitored closely especially around children.

Follow these tips to keep you and your dog safe:

1. Completely ignore your dog when they jump on you. Do not touch, talk to, or even make eye contact with your dog.
2. Keep your dog a leash when meeting new people. The leash should NOT be used to tug or pull your dog. The leash is only there to prevent your dog from getting close enough to a new person to jump.
3. When people come over to your house, put your dog in a crate or bedroom as people enter the home. Once everyone is settled, bring your dog out on a leash to calmly greet everyone.
4. Give your dog plenty to do! Most of these jumpy mouthy dogs are very high energy. Positive reinforcement training and puzzle toys are great ways to keep your dog's mind active. Classes such as agility can also be a great way to burn off energy and have fun!

These training tips can help your dog to learn more appropriate behavior:

1. Reward your dog for good behavior! If your dog keeps all four paws on the ground, toss him a tasty treat.
2. Teach your dog to sit to greet.
 - a. Teach your dog to sit on cue. Practice "sit" in many different places with different people.
 - b. Ask your dog to sit when you come home. Be ready to pay off with a really tasty treat. The treat has to be a better reward than the opportunity to jump on you!
 - c. When your dog meets new people, tell the people that your dog must sit before they can pet him. Depending on the situation, you can ask for the sit yourself or have the stranger ask for the sit.
3. Teach your dog a "default" behavior. A default behavior is basically your dog's way of saying "please".
 - a. Choose an easy behavior that your dog can do. Sit is often a good behavior for this.
 - b. Ask your dog to do the behavior before doing any enjoyable activity. For example:
 - i. Ask your dog to sit before going outside.
 - ii. Ask your dog to sit before mealtimes.
 - iii. Ask your dog to sit before leaving for a walk.
 - c. With practice, your dog will learn that sitting is the best way to get what he wants!

If you have tried what is provided here and still have questions, contact behaviorhelp@larimerhumane.org or call 970-226-3647 ext. 513