



likely to dig, chew or partake in other destructive behaviours in your absence.

CHEWING

Young dogs explore with their mouths (just as young babies do) however it becomes a problem because dogs have very sharp teeth that are able to destroy items very quickly.

It is up to the owner to puppy-proof the house and yard and keep tempting items out of reach from inquisitive dogs and puppies. It will also be necessary to provide the dog with enough entertainment when the owners are absent and enough exercise when the owners are present to prevent unwanted chewing. There are many food release devices that can be filled and then given to the dog when the owner leaves him/her alone (eg Kongs, Dur-a-Bruts, Buster Cubes). In addition, the owner must ensure the dog has plenty of toys that will need to be added to or swapped around regularly to keep the dog's interest. Toys that are available all the time quickly become boring.

When the owner is home, he/she must provide the dog with enough exercise and stimulation to prevent the dog becoming destructive. Daily walks are imperative and off-leash exercise is ideal should there be a safe, off-leash designated area in your suburb. Daily training will keep the dog's mind active (contact a pet dog trainer in your area for assistance) as well as teaching the dog to respond to requests from the owner.

Should you find your puppy chewing an inappropriate item then a quick hand-clap or "ah-ah" will suffice to take your puppy's attention away from the item and then redirect him/her to another more suitable item (eg toy, rawhide, etc.) and praise when he/she starts to chew that. There is no need to physically punish the puppy or verbally abuse him/

her (this is a bit like hitting a five year old child for not being able to do long division). The puppy is not chewing due to spite, he/she just has not learned what he/she can and cannot do. Be consistent and ensure lots of praise when, your puppy is chewing an appropriate item. Most importantly, do not leave your puppy unsupervised around the house until he/she has learnt the rules, this will require you to keep the puppy in the same room as you at all times. (This is also necessary for housetraining).

Should you find destroyed items from earlier chew frenzies do not punish the dog. The dog will not relate the punishment to the chewing (the "guilty look" is an appeasement gesture, not an admission of guilt). It will confuse and stress the dog and a confused, anxious dog is far more likely to chew as it is a great stress reliever for dogs.

DOG TRAINING CLASSES

The Animal Welfare League holds classes regularly for adult dogs and puppies. In addition, the dog behavioural trainers on staff are available to give you advice over the telephone or provide individual training sessions when required.



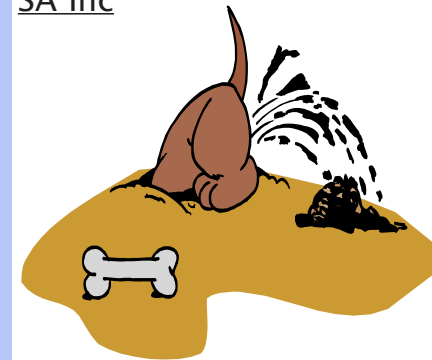
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JUMPING UP, DIGGING AND CHEWING

Animal Welfare League of SA Inc





JUMPING UP

Why dogs jump up

Most dogs jump on people to gain their attention. It is a normal greeting behaviour and your dog would be unusual if he/she never jumped up.

Why punishment often doesn't work to control this natural behaviour

In order to control the behaviour you need to ensure you NEVER encourage it. Punishment rarely solves the problem as in order to punish the dog you have to give the dog attention, which is exactly what the dog requested when he/she jumped up. It also causes confusion as the dog is being punished for being happy to see you. In addition, punishment is rarely metered out consistently as both family and visitors are unlikely to reprimand the dog so sometimes he/she is being rewarded and other times punished.

Why it is going to take time and how it becomes an ingrained behaviour

By the time jumping up becomes a problem most dogs have been doing it since they were very young puppies. It is likely that they were actively encouraged to jump up by family and visitors.

How to control the behaviour

The most effective way to deal with jumping up is to turn you back on the dog and fold your arms when he/she jumps up. At the same time say nothing. The dog will fall off you as you turn. When all four feet are on the ground give the dog your attention (but don't be too exciting). If your dog has a good concept of the word "sit" you can request a sit before greeting the dog and offer a treat once the dog has sat (a dog cannot sit and jump at the same time). If you are consistent with this you will



eventually have a dog who sits whenever he/she greets you.

With very excitable dogs it is a good idea to keep greetings low key and as unexciting as possible. Train visitors (particularly regular ones) not to encourage the dog to jump up. It may be necessary for visitors to completely ignore the dog when they arrive and only give attention when the dog is more settled. Try to have control of the dog before the greeting with a collar and lead and a well practised "sit-stay" and give the dog treats if he/she greets the visitor appropriately.

Your dog will not stop jumping up overnight, it will take some time for the dog to get the idea but consistency and patience will pay off in the end. Some dogs may get marginally worse before they get better and this is usually because the dog used to get your attention and tries harder before realising that this no longer works and sitting may be a better option.

The golden rule

Basically, when dealing with any unwanted behaviour always try to ignore the behaviour you don't want and reward the behaviour you do want (rewards can take the form of food, praise, toys, games or anything your dog enjoys. You may find you spend a lot of your time telling the dog how wonderful he/she is for doing absolutely nothing!

DIGGING

Digging is not necessarily confined to puppies or young dogs. It is not uncommon for older dogs to dig regularly but the solutions usually work for all ages of dogs.

Some dogs dig because they have too much energy and not enough things to do (boredom digging) but more often dogs dig because it is great fun! Other



dogs may dig because they are creating a nice cool, sheltered area to lie in or other may actually be digging up insects under the lawn.

If you think your dog may be bored, refer to the "occupying the home alone dog" sheet. For those dogs that do have plenty of things to do but still insist on digging in your favourite part of the garden (the "this is fun" diggers) make sure you give them an area that you are happy for them to dig in. You may have to fence off the area that they show a preference to digging in until you have trained them to dig in appropriate area. Encourage them to dig in the area you have provided by placing dry dog food, toys or treats (eg Bonios, rawhide chews, etc.) under the soil. Let them see you placing the items there and praise when they dig in that area. If they are caught digging in another area distract them (a handclap or "ah-ah" will usually suffice, you don't have to go on and on about it!) and take them to the preferred area again, praise if they choose to dig there.

For the dogs that are just choosing a comfortable resting place it is easiest to accept that the dog will dig in that area and keep the area free of your favourite plants. It may be necessary to sacrifice a little part of your garden for the dog's comfort.

The insect eaters are the trickiest. All the punishment in the world is not going to make those little critters go away or your dog stop wanting them! Again, fencing off the areas is the easiest and least stressful way to deal with it, You will know your dog is an insect chaser if there are multiple holes in the back lawn that are very close together.

Ensure you NEVER tell your dog off if you come home to find holes dug. Your dog does not understand what you are communicating (the "guilty look" is actually an appeasement gesture, not an admission of guilt). Your dog will become stressed about your homecoming and a stressed dog is more