



No Longer in the Doghouse

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Socialisation - With People

One of the most important areas for our socialisation plan as our puppy is a family member. It can be hard to familiarise your puppy with certain groups of people for example the young or elderly. Ideally, we have until the puppy is 4 months old to introduce it to wheelchairs, meet toddlers, men, woman, etc. We have to also teach them to meet and greet different people who say hello differently to us dog folk.

A dog that greets you with all four feet on the ground is much more acceptable than a dog that jumps up. Dogs that jump up are a nuisance and can result in ruined clothes, a frightened child or visitors avoiding your home.

Teaching your puppy not to jump us is easy if you start early but you must be consistent to ensure long-lasting success.

We have to think why is our dog jumping up in the first place? Puppies jump up to get closer to people's faces so that they can greet and lick them. This is a behaviour displayed in dogs called appeasement and a puppy tries to reproduce this with us. If this is allowed or rewarded with praise or fuss it quickly becomes a habit (learned behaviour) and can be very difficult to break later. One of the biggest rewards we have is when a cute puppy is jumping up at our legs – we instantly pick it up for a cuddle near our face.

It is essential that for this learning curve the whole family sings from the same song sheet – **it is a rule that to greet the puppy they must have all four feet on the ground.**

Points to remember:

- When visitors arrive it maybe best to have your dog on a lead so that you can control what they do, and your visitors do not unwittingly teach them bad habits.
- Let the puppy move forward to greet people when all four feet are on the ground. If they jumps up the visitor backs off and you stand still – no reward for this behaviour.
- The behaviour you would want to reward is a nice calm controlled sit/stand in front of the visitor who when returns can now make a fuss of the dog.



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- You can set this up and have training sessions where the 'visitor' can repeatedly come in and out of the house.
- Remember to use the clicker to aid your success and high reward treats.
- Depending on how well your dog does on the mat you can use this as a target for them. For example, the door goes, and it means I go to my mat/bed for a click treat. I remain there until the visitor comes in the house (withhold the click to get a longer stay on the mat). The visitor then approaches me and in return I get my reward etc.
- The main point to remember is that you are in control of the house, this is your guest, and you say when your dog is allowed to greet them.
- If you really can't control the dog in this situation then you could always remove the dog from the situation. 'If you cannot control yourself you will go out' but be careful that your 'punishment' of being a pest doesn't mean I get to have more fun and games in the garden.

Meeting people on a walk is normally a lot harder to control with the greeting but we have to remember that not everyone likes dogs, especially when they jump up.

Points to remember when outside:

- It is important that the dog learns to return to you when you see someone coming towards you. Use the clicker to reward this behaviour and you can teach this easily with your mini recall.
- You then are able to decide if your dog is allowed to meet this person.
- By the dog returning to you, you are able to place them on a lead and control the situation like within the home. If the person wants to interact with your dog that is absolutely fine as long as you remember the rule **all four feet on the ground**.



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- It can be difficult to get complete strangers to help train your puppy, but you can aid your success by crouching down, if needed hold the collar to prevent any jumping up but keep the interaction short but positive. From the previous classes we discussed that hand on collar is a rewarding experience so you shouldn't have any unwanted behaviour from this.
- Remember the lead is not there to prevent the dog jumping up – it is its own self-control and behaviour.

If your puppy learns how to greet you without jumping up, they will be much more likely to greet visitors in the correct way.