

# It's A Dog's World™

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### JUMPING

One of the biggest complaints that owners have is the problem of their dogs' jumping up on them. Whether the dog is a small breed like a Maltese or as large as a Great Dane, there is nothing more annoying than having a dog jumping up on you.



In most cases, jumping up on people is a completely normal behavior for dogs. They do it for no other reason than to get you to pay attention to them. When it comes to jumping, dogs usually don't care whether the attention they get is negative or positive, and in our haste to get the dog off of us by pushing or kneeling them, we inadvertently provide the dog with the very attention that he is seeking.

There are a number of successful methods for correcting your dog from jumping on people. You will need to try a combination of methods to completely eliminate jumping behavior in your dog. So, the first rule to correcting your dog's jumping behavior is to ignore it as much as possible.

One method is to immediately turn your back on your dog **WITHOUT** moving away from the dog. Typically, your dog will stop jumping long enough to come around, face you and start jumping again. If this happens, turn your back on your dog again. Do not make any physical attempt, such as pushing, to get your dog off of you! You can also use the command, "Off!" Continue turning and keeping your hands calmly at your sides until your dog stops jumping. You can also give your dog the "Sit!" command to give them an alternative behavior for getting attention. Once your dog stops jumping and is sitting you can praise or treat your dog. **It is important that you do not give your dog any attention or praise until he is sitting or standing calmly.** This will teach your dog that excited jumping behavior will not get him the attention he is looking for.

It is also a good idea to keep your greetings and departures with your dog as low key as possible. If you walk in the door after being gone all day, your dog will naturally be excited to see you. However, if you make a huge fuss over your dog when you come home (or when you leave), his or her excitement level is going to go through the roof and it will be much harder to prevent the jumping behavior.

Instead, when you come home, just casually walk in the door and avoid petting or interacting with your dog. It's all right to give a casual verbal greeting, but try to walk right past your dog, put your things down and generally ignore your dog until his or her excitement level has been reduced. Only when your dog is finally calm should you call them over for petting.

Some persistent jumpers will happily continue to circle you or your guests while trying to jump for attention. If this is the case, you will probably need to keep a "grab tab" attached to the dog's collar or keep the dog's leash handy when company comes over.

First, attach your dog's leash to his collar. Give your dog the "Sit" command before opening the door to let your guests in. Stand on your dog's leash so it is impossible for him to get his feet off the floor to jump. Once your guests have come in, continue standing on the leash until your dog relaxes and no longer tries to jump. Ask your guests to ignore the dog until it calms down. At that point, release the pressure on the leash and give lots of praise and treats for the calm behavior. If the dog starts jumping again, repeat the exercise until your dog can sit or stand calmly with all four feet on the floor.