ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

How do I prevent my puppy from jumping on people?

Getting a new puppy is always a joyous time. However, if they start jumping onto people or nipping at them it can quickly become a problem, especially if there are toddlers in the home. So, what can you do to help prevent this from happening? The first thing to understand is that with behavioral problems there is no quick and easy fix. You have to keep up with your homework or you will not be successful. Teaching them to sit is the foundation for training. Once they learn this behavior, you should have them sit before they are allowed to do what they want. For example, make them sit before you give them their food dish, or before they can go up to a toddler, or before you throw them the ball. Most puppies will pick this up pretty quickly. When toddlers are visiting, you should have your puppy on a lead to prevent them from jumping. Be careful you aren't jerking them back too much though because they may associate the negative reinforcement of the leash with toddlers and the training will be counterintuitive. If you see your puppy going towards a toddler, divert their attention by calling them away and giving them a reward, treat, toy, etc. With patience and time you can keep your dog from jumping on people. Good Luck!

Submitted by: Dr. Kevin Schmidt

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