



Puppy Problem Solving Tips

We offer a Puppy Training Program!

Email training@pawpatchplace.com for more information.

Dogs are not born knowing right or wrong but we can teach them without fear or force, it just takes a little patience to build understanding and promote learning.

Chewing/Biting:

- Puppies interact with their littermates through play and biting and often take some redirecting to learn that we don't enjoy the same behavior! To teach your puppy not to bite you, calmly replace your arm/foot/fingers with a toy they can chew on. Avoid yelling or drawing attention to the behavior as it often gets puppies excited. Just a quick swap with a toy then be consistent, they will eventually catch on.
- If your puppy is chewing on something in the house, follow the same advice. Puppies don't know the difference between your shoes and his toys so manage his environment by keeping as much up and away from your puppy as possible to set him up for success then when he does get a hold of undesirable things, swap them for what he can have.

Jumping up for greetings:

- Never give puppy attention while they're jumping on you as this becomes a much bigger problem later in their life. Create calm when you walk in the door or let puppy out of their crate by being "a tree"--stand confidently (may need to kneel for smaller puppies) and wait for them to calm down. Once your puppy has 4 feet on the floor, then you may pet and praise them. If they jump up, stand up and wait again.
- Once your puppy has learned some cues you should ignore the jumping but redirect it by asking for an alternative behavior like a sit then reinforce your puppy with your attention at their level. If they jump back up, stand back up and wait again. Continue until this alternative behavior becomes their "default".
- For extra excitable puppies you can scatter a few treats on the ground as you walk in to allow yourself some time to get to the while they're "four on the floor". Foraging a few treats on the ground is incompatible with jumping up so it buys you time. :)

Pulling on leash:

- Puppy should be walked on a harness and a 6ft leash. Never ever use retractable leashes which are dangerous, or pinch, prong, or electric collars that are punishing.
- Drop treats at your side every 5 ft or so to start to make staying with you super fun. If your puppy pulls ahead, just stop and wait. If your puppy reengages with you by looking, offer a treat at your side then say, "let's go!" and start walking again. You can also practice turning around every 10 ft or so to mix up the walk and keep that engagement with you. Remember to give your puppy the opportunity to pull over and sniff when they want to, but avoid letting them drag you there. Be patient!