

Jumping Tips For More Polite Greetings

Aim for your dog self-correcting, so that sitting or lying down becomes the automatic default behavior. Put your foot on the leash (keep one handy so that jumping is never an option) and reinforce (click and reward) anything other than jumping at first.

Then raise the bar as your dog starts to get it and hold out for the sit and reward that. You can tell your dog to sit, but be careful not to repeat yourself too much. It is better that he figures out that sitting or lying down are the only things you pay for when he is greeting people.

If he figures this out on his own you will never have to nag him about how he greets people, it will just become what he does.

Remember that if the value for getting overexcited about a visitor overrides your value, you won't be able to easily communicate with your dog.

The rule is, your dog needs to check in with you and be able to hold it together and ignore the person for a bit before he's allowed to say hello.

Keep the contact brief at first, a quick pat and then use your "leave it" to get your dog working for you again.

Repeat this a few times and when your dog is holding it together better, go ahead and let him greet them longer. If he starts to get crazy, don't be afraid to walk away and reset and try again.

Management Tip

If you find yourself without a leash to step on, while you are re-training your dog's greeting, put your thumb in the side or front part of your dog's collar and push down. This will make it impossible for him to jump, with very little force from you, so that your dog will be able to say hello to people without practicing jumping. The more you prevent jumping to be a way of coping with excitement, the less jumping you will have to manage.

Be consistent and ready to prevent what you don't want (jumping), so that you can reward more of what's going right. Soon your dog will be a welcome guest anywhere !