



Jumps and Grabs

- A dog that jumps on visitors.
- A dog that jumps on kids.
- A dog that grabs at elderly people.

When some dogs meet people for the first time, they cannot contain their excitement and their nervousness. They can therefore greet a guest by jumping on him. Generally, this causes more embarrassment to the master than discomfort for the guest. Sometimes, a dog shows his excess enthusiasm by jumping on a child, an elderly person, or worse still, a person who is afraid of dogs. The dog must be trained not to jump on anybody. Sometimes, this behavior is caused by an unconscious reinforcement of said behavior, either on the part of the master or the guest. The dog could very well have never been trained otherwise, or again, the guests pet the dog when he jumps on them, thus giving the dog the message that this is acceptable behavior. For reasons of safety and hygiene, it is best to train the dog to greet guests properly.

The dog risks jumping or grabbing when :

1. The dog sees you after an absence.
2. You pet the dog.

3. You are seated in a chair.
4. You are holding food in your hands.
5. You are playing with an excited dog.
6. The dog wants to show his dominance.

The trick consists in finding out what makes the dog jump, recreating the problem situations and showing him not to jump. In order to redress the situation, each person involved must contribute to redirecting the dog's behavior. Any arrival at the family home must be done as calmly as possible so as not to excite the dog. Never talk to or pet an excited dog - be neutral. Ask a friend to enter the house; a series of successive entries and exits could be simulated for the sake of practice. Visitors must be advised that the dog must not be petted if he jumps. If the dog jumps, use the following approach :

1. As soon as the dog gets onto his hind legs, give the VW "HEY! + SPRAY" with an assertive tone. Do not look or lunge at him. If he has jumped, avoid eye contact. If the dog doesn't stop jumping, revert to the long spray setting.
2. Then, tell him to "SIT" and release him with "O.K." after a few seconds. Congratulate him by giving him the SR "SOUND + GOOD", but withhold the treat.
3. Two minutes later, if the dog has not jumped, congratulate him once again (SR "SOUND + GOOD!").
4. If each attempt at jumping is immediately dealt with, the dog will not jump on anybody. When the dog has shown he understands the conditioning, reward him.

You can then practice the exercise with other people, because once the dog has gotten accustomed to a person, he becomes less excited. It is therefore wise to expose the dog to someone new at regular intervals.

What to do after a few practice sessions? At the moment of encounter, give the command "NAME + SIT" and reward the dog if he sits. If you are not familiar with the "SIT" command, please consult chapter 3 for all the details. If you persist in

having the dog "SIT" every time you have guests, and you reward him for it, he will quickly adopt this behavior.

If the dog resumes his jumping, give him the hypo-allergenic spray and resume the exercise. A dog that jumps and doesn't respect the "SIT" command should never receive food or attention from the guests. Rather, give him the LONG SPRAY as soon as the dog is poised to jump. Do not look at him, do not give him the attention he craves. When the dog "SITS" as he meets people, congratulate him and give him some affection. Such a gesture reinforces the link between good behavior and the command, notwithstanding the benefits that a good master-dog relationship can bring to your quality of life. In order to eliminate any possibility of repeating the faulty behavior, give him the proper command every time the dog encounters people.

In order to keep the dog sharp, put him to the test. Don't forget to recreate the situation with a witness, and maintain the same attitude when a real guest arrives. Come home with a bag full of treats which you put in a place where the dog is likely to jump for it. If the dog resists the temptation to jump, give him a treat. If he jumps, use the technique described above. If the dog jumps without your having the device on hand, use the VW "HEY!" as a warning, because it has already been associated with the spray, thus keeping its full warning impact.