

Dog Training Articles By Beth Bradley

JUMPING

Jumping is one of the hardest habits to break because dogs learn it at a very young age. Once puppies begin to stand and walk (about 3 wks old) they learn that when their mother returns to the whelping box, if they jump on her she will regurgitate food. So jumping is a good thing. Then when you buy or adopt your puppy you hold him near your face either to cuddle or to comfort or console him and this reinforces the idea that good things happen when your puppy is near your face. Then he grows up and jumping is not as fun as it used to be. Also, your dog doesn't understand that he can jump when you are wearing jeans but can't jump when you are dressed for work. Or that he can jump on you but not your child or a stranger.

How to break the habit: Always have a collar and leash on so you can correct him to either side when he jumps up. If you are having guests over, keep your dog outside or in a cage until the commotion settles down. Then once your guests are seated bring your dog inside on a leash to keep him from jumping. If your dog jumps on you when you come home from work, have a spare leash in your car. Loop it over your dog's head and correct him. Once your dog is trained and listening well you can avoid a correction for jumping by giving him a command to sit and then correct him for not sitting.

It's a hard habit to break but it is certainly not impossible if you are consistent and you always correct for a jump. Remember that you don't want to use the command 'down', 'down is for lying down. The command to use is 'Off'.