

Jumping up

Most normal, young puppies have the annoying tendency to jump on people they greet - a tendency derived from the pup's wolf ancestry. Wolf cubs begin leaving their den shortly after the third week of age, at which time they are fed by the older pack members who regurgitate partially digested food. Such feeding is initiated when the young cubs jumps up and licks the adult's muzzles. After weaning, the cubs continue to greet older pack members by licking their muzzles, and this becomes the normal way a puppy *greet*s his superiors.

Teaching an alternative

In human society, jumping up for feeding is unnecessary and humans who don't take to dogs in the first place, seldom appreciate this type of greeting. Avoid this habit by teaching the pup an acceptable alternative greeting at an early age.

1. Greet the pup from a crouching position and while holding him in a sitting position, pet him. Allow him to lick, not mouth your hand if you're so inclined.
2. Never pet the pup while he's jumping up or right after he's done so. If he learns that jumping up leads to petting he will continue to do so.
3. If you have guests who don't care to greet the pup as suggested above, put his leash on him before they arrive. (If a leather or fabric leash, treat it to prevent chewing). When the pup jumps up to greet them, raise your voice and stand on the leash. Have the guests praise him only when he's on all fours, and if they don't, you praise him for them.
4. Leave the leash on the dog and continue to enforce the rule. You must be consistent or the pup will persist in jumping up.
5. If you forget to get down on his level and he jumps up, raise your voice and put him into a sitting position. Then praise him while he's sitting.
6. If, after several weeks of consistency on your part, he still persists, it's time for firmer action. You must then set it up so that the jumping produces an unpleasant result, and staying down produces petting and praise. (Yes, you are "setting a trap" for him). Since each pup is different, what one finds unpleasant may not affect another. The following is a list of corrections most dogs find unpleasant. Try various corrections until you find one that he responds to.
 - a. Very loud voice
 - b. Hitting his chest with a raised knee.
 - c. Stamping your foot on the floor.
 - d. Throwing a shaker can containing bb's near dog's rump.
 - e. Throwing a rolled up newspaper secured with rubber bands near rump.
7. Once you have found a correction he responds to, do everything possible to get him to jump up. When he does jump up, use the correction. Each and every time he doesn't jump up lavish him with praise.
8. Follow each correction with praise when he gets down, this is the behavior you want to encourage.

No pup is too young to learn an acceptable greeting. Starting your pup out with a good habit will help prevent an undesirable jumping up habit from developing.