

## Common Dog Behavior Issues

We love our canine companions- despite the fact that they may do things that are frustrating, annoying, or just plain rude. But don't despair! These behaviors are totally normal and have some simple solutions.



### **JUMPING ON PEOPLE**

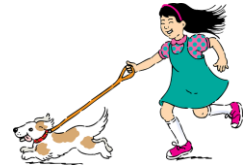
- **Why they do it:** Looking for attention/social interaction & this behavior often gets a response.
- **What to do about it:** Turn your back and ignore the dog until s/he is no longer jumping.
- **Things that can make the problem worse:** If the dog is scolded, petted or spoken to when s/he jumps up, this just reinforces the behavior because they're getting a response from you.

### **JUMPING ON COUNTERS**

- **Why they do it:** Curiosity! There might be something tasty to eat!
- **What to do about it:** Keep your counters clear of food/edible items. Don't allow unsupervised access to the kitchen. Interrupt and redirect the behavior when you catch your dog in the act.
- **Things that can make the problem worse:** Each time the dog jumps up on the counter and finds something tasty to eat, the behavior will be reinforced and they'll want to do it again!

### **PULLING ON LEASH**

- **Why they do it:** Excitement & curiosity! They want to get there faster.
- **What to do about it:** When your dog begins to pull, calmly stop walking or begin backing away from your dog until the dog gives you his/her attention, relieving tension on the leash. Only continue to move forward when the leash is loose. We recommend a Gentle Leader or Easy-Walk harness & lots of patience- it might take you a while to get there at first, but most dogs learn quickly!
- **Things that can make the problem worse:** Allowing your dog to drag you towards their destination; walking your dog without the proper equipment (Flexi-leashes are nice, but difficult to control your dog with!).



### **DESTRUCTIVE CHEWING**



- **Why they do it:** To alleviate boredom, excess energy, anxiety, &/or stress; Puppies may be teething
- **What to do about it:** Provide your dog with lots of exercise and opportunities for appropriate mental stimulation (food puzzles, appropriate chew toys, training exercises, etc.); prevent unsupervised access to the items being chewed upon (i.e. your shoes, the couch); Interrupt and redirect the behavior when you catch the dog in the act.
- **Things that can make the problem worse:** Allowing your dog unsupervised access to commonly chewed items; Lack of sufficient exercise and/or mental stimulation.