

DOG TRAINING TIPS FOR 3 COMMON PROBLEM BEHAVIORS

DIGGING:



It is a good idea to keep your dog's nails trimmed short. In addition, make sure that your dog has special toys to play with in the yard to keep them busy while you are away. Special toys for dogs include a large ball that your dog cannot grasp in their mouth, a Nylabone soaked in broth or a kong toy filled with peanut butter or honey. You should alternate these special toys every 3 days so that they remain interesting to your pet. If your dog buries toys, try drilling a hole in it and passing a wire or small linked chain through it. Attach the chain or wire to a stationary object (i.e. a tree). Your dog will have trouble burying a toy that is tied up.

Do not fill in holes, garden or dig in front of your dog (they should be out of sight before engaging in any of these activities). When you fill a hole in your yard, fill it almost all the way with dirt. Place a layer of the dog's solid waste in the hole and completely cover it with dirt. Many dogs go back and dig in the same hole more than once. Dogs do not like to dig in their own waste, so this method usually works well to stop the digging. You may want to consider using repellents that can be applied to areas where your dog digs, but be CAREFUL -make sure any product you purchase is non-toxic and safe for your pet!

Finally, remember to take your dog for a walk every day. The exercise will help burn off excess energy that might otherwise be spent digging. It will also keep you and your dog healthier!

CHEWING:



The most important thing you can do to solve your dog's chewing problem is to teach your dog to focus on chewing the PROPER toys. Proper chew toys include Nylabones, kong toys, and chew hooves. Soaking the Nylabone in beef or chicken broth for 20 minutes or dabbing a little peanut butter or honey on rawhide bones and kong toys will make a special treat for your pet. Play with your dog using these toys for at least 20 minutes a day. When you see your dog chewing on these correct toys, PRAISE him! DO NOT give your dog old shoes, socks, pieces of wood or children's toys to chew.

You should also make sure that your dog is on a high quality premium kibbled (hard) dog food. Chewing on the hard kibble often stops problem chewing. Finally, remember to take your dog for a walk every day. The exercise will help burn off excess energy that might otherwise be spent chewing. It will also keep you and your dog healthier!

JUMPING UP:



Do not play rough games with your dog that encourage jumping during the time that you are trying to eliminate this problem. Your dog will not be able to tell when it is ok to jump and when it is not. When your dog jumps up on you, say NO and gently shove him away. Then let your dog approach you again. Tell your dog to sit and then wait for 1 second. If your dog sits, praise him. If he does not sit, gently push him into the sitting position and then praise him. Remember, praising your dog for sitting will teach him to sit as opposed to jump. As an alternative to pushing your dog away, you can try using a squirt bottle filled with water while saying NO. When the jumping stops, have the dog sit and then praise that behavior. **BE CONSISTENT!** If your dog jumps on guests and children, make sure that you are prepared in these situations by having your dog on a leash. Let your dog jump, say NO and then gently tug the leash, pulling your dog off and away from the person. Tell your dog to sit and then wait for one second. If the dog sits, praise him. If he does not sit, gently push him into the sit position and then praise him. Leave the leash on until you are sure that the jumping will not resume. Remember practice, patience and consistency equals success!



San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program

(800) 472-5609

www.sbcounty.gov/acc