

How do I get my dog to stop jumping up on everyone?

By Wendy Krehbiel

*Why do dogs jump?*

Dogs jump up on people to get attention. Human inconsistency is what makes this problem so hard to solve. It's hard for dogs to figure out the rules if they are allowed to jump on some people some of the time. This usually results in the dog that tries jumping up a lot to see if this is one of those times that it's going to work.

*How do I get them to not jump on me (and my family)?*

The first step in teaching your dog not to jump is to remove their motivation. They should get no attention when they jump up – this means with all people all the time. The best way to not give attention is to turn your back on the dog when they jump. If you are walking in a door, then turning around and going back out is also very effective. The next step is to teach your dog to sit when doing greetings. This gives them a way to ask for your attention and tells them what it is that you want them to do.

*How do I get them to not jump on other people when we're out in public?*

If your dog is jumping on people in public, you can start with setups with friends or family who know to turn their back and walk away unless the dog sits. Then you can progress to asking the dog (who is on leash) to sit and if he jumps, just turn around and walk away from the person and ask them if you can try again. If this fails 3 times in a row, then the dog loses the chance to meet that person.

*Remember*

You need to be consistent, the rules need to be clear to your dog, and you also need to give them an alternative way to ask for your attention by teaching them to sit instead of jumping.