



FEATURE

Got a Dog with a Behaviour Problem? Here are some solutions

Caught your dog doing something they shouldn't be? We've all been there! Here are some behavioural issues you'll need to nip in the bud as soon as possible.



As Pet Parents, we sometimes look the other way and let our pets get away with things they really shouldn't. Don't worry - it's not just you!

But when your dog's behaviour becomes destructive or dangerous, it's time to start making changes, for their sake as much as your own. Remember, you're the leader of the pack, so it's up to you to get bad behaviour to stop.

Here are some of the most common behavioural issues and how to stop them.

THE YAPPER: Excessive Barking

We've all come across a dog who barks at everything from airplanes to the breeze. We're not talking about barking at strangers or when they're feeling threatened. We mean incessant barking at almost nothing.

Solution: The only way to fix this is to figure out why your pup is barking. Is it boring? Anxiety? Loneliness? Fix that problem and the barking should stop.

THE DESTROYER: Excessive Chewing

If your dog chews on sofas, doors, and shoes (with or without feet in them), it's often a sign of anxiety. Chewing can be a distracting, calming action. The other big chew-starter is boredom.

Solution: Get your dog their own chew toy. Praise them for chewing on it, and when you see them chewing on something they shouldn't be, replace it with their toy. Give positive reinforcement.

THE PUPPY DOG EYES: Begging

Begging for human food is learned behaviour. Usually, dogs know they'll be rewarded for it, so they think it's good behaviour. Don't think that they'll feel unloved if you don't give in. There are plenty of chances to give them love, but this shouldn't be one.

Solution: Positive reinforcement is important to change your dog's behaviour here. Make sure they know they should be sitting at a bit of a distance and ignore their whines. Feed them their own treat after your meal, if they've been a good dog! If it helps, leave them in their crate when you're eating, or if you can, it's a good idea to feed them their own meal at the same time.

THE MINER: Digging

Digging is usually out of boredom, or because your dog doesn't have enough toys to stimulate them. If they've seen you digging in the garden, they may also think it's a good thing.

Solution: Get your dog some toys. Encourage them to play with the toys so when you're not home they'll choose the toys over the dirt.

THE DEFIANT DOGGO: Not Coming When Called

This can be equally frustrating and embarrassing if it's happening in public! Basically, your dog is letting you know there are more interesting things out there than you. Don't worry, though - it can be fixed with a bit of effort and practice.

Solution: Reward your dog every time they obey your call. Every time! If they have an incentive to come to you, this problem should disappear.

CONCLUSION

Whichever behavioural problem your dog is showing, there's a way to fix it so both pup and human can move forward, happier, and healthy. Remember - whatever you do to help your dog learn, do it with love!

Bio:

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