

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue

Golden Rule Training

Jumping on People

Usually the reason for jumping is to get attention from the family, in some cases it can be an act of dominance. It may be ok with the owner if the puppy or small dogs jumps up and sees it as very cute, but for a larger dog it can be dangerous if not annoying. For any reason jumping up is not a desired behavior for most dog owners.

There are many ways to discourage this behavior, some are over the top and considered abusive. We recommend the following techniques to let the dog know, this is NOT appropriate.

Action: When the dog jumps up, use the “bump and turn” to get the dog off and to let them know they have crossed a line and they will not get attention with jumping. When the dog jumps up you do not give eye contact or say anything, ignore the dog and “bump” him with your hip and turn away. The dog gets no attention so the act is not getting him what he wants.

Action: The family should all come into the house very calmly and not make it a big deal. Come in and ignore the dog, this means no attention, no high-pitched hellos. Yelling may be interpreted as attention.

Action: Teach the dog to sit on cue instead, after they are in the “sit”* position, the dog receives praise only when he is not calm and not jumping; this is called “redirecting”.

Action: Teach the “off” cue by putting their paws on the floor, and then give the cue. If you use the cue as they are jumping up and they do not understand what “off” means, they will think jumping up is actual “off”. Just remember, then they have all four-on- the-floor and say “off”!

Action: Another technique is to walk into your dog and with a stern eye and “growly” voice say “quit it”, so he knows you mean business, once he stops, then walk away.

If a dog jumps on visitors coming into the house, or when the dog meets people on the street, he typically is excited and wants to say "hello".

Action: Explain to the guest(s) the dog is in a learning stage, and ask them to keep turning away or turn their back to the dog, and not give the dog attention until the behavior stops; no praise, no talking, ignore the dog. If the visitor is willing to help, practice by having the doorbell ring and go through the process a few times. Make sure to tell the visitor to ignore the dog and not give them a reason to be more excited to see them.

Action: Bring the dog away from the door when someone knocks and tell him to "sit", and then work towards "sit-stay"* until released from the stay to greet the guest. If this is not working, use a leash and step on the leash to prevent the dog from jumping up. With all four paws on the floor, say "off."

It may be difficult for the behavior to stop and while training, you may have to put the dog in another room or in a crate as a last resort. Keep working on it, the dog will get the idea the jumping is not getting him the attention he wants.

**See training cue "sit" and "sit-stay"*