

PUPPY SCENARIOS

1. We have a 14 week old Cocker Spaniel puppy. He was the runt of the litter and very thin when we got him. He has become very aggressive at times. Occasionally he growls when you pick him up, but if he has a pigs ear and you go near him he will growl. If you try to take it away he gets very aggressive and curls his lips and bites. I have young children and am getting concerned as it is getting worse. When I told him off and tried to put him in his bed he did the same.

- Puppies who were the runt of the litter can develop food aggression.
- Not many dogs like being picked up as it's too restraining.
- Look for ways to communicate that you are in charge of food, but you are his friend too and are not competing with him for food, such as holding a chew while he chomps on it.
- Demonstrate that you and all the family are higher ranking members where food is concerned by eating before him.
- Create an atmosphere where you are relaxed and calm when doing this training so no additional tension is added.

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2. I have the biggest problem with my Jack Russell terrier, who is 3 months old. He used to go potty and poop on his pad fine, only the past couple of weeks he started going all over the house like day 1. I've tried everything, I've picked him up and showed him where his pad is like I did when we first started training. I've told him nicely, I've yelled at him and even hit him, which makes me feel bad later, but nothing seems to work. He used to be so good, when he was sleeping with me on the couch he would jump off and go to his pad and poop or pee and then come back, but now it's all over the place again.

- Puppies are often 4-6 months old before they are housetrained.
- Puppies have short attention spans and often forget what they've learned.
- There's no need to shout or hit the puppy, start the training again and they will soon remember – consistency and repetition is key.

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3. I have recently purchased a beautiful English Springer Spaniel and I would like some help on how to stop her from constantly trying to chew my feet/slippers. she used to bite my hands, but I have managed to stop that. I have tried the "give her something to distract her method" but she goes straight back to my feet. The only way I can stop her is to remove her from the room, until she has quietened down. Is this the correct way to deal with it? And, if not, can you make any suggestions?

- Saying 'ouch' in a high pitched voice can communicate to a puppy that what they are doing is too much.
- Find something that is much more interesting to the puppy than feet and slippers in order to distract.
- Removing her from the room until she calms down is also a good option to try.

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4. I am trying to take my Staff Puppy of 14 weeks for walks but as soon as the lead goes on him he will not walk. I have tried practising in the house but he won't budge either. I have tried taking a few steps forward then back again, I have tried treats, my boyfriend has tried walking ahead and calling him but nothing! He will go outside on his own and does not run off but as soon as he spots the lead he freezes.

- They are doing everything right other than associating well with the lead.
- Put the lead on and give him a tasty treat and take it off and give him a treat and repeat.
- Put a treat on the lead when it's not on him and get him to eat the treat off the lead.
- Anything that communicates to him that the lead is a good thing will be very good to do.

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5. Could you please give me some tips on how to stop my puppy from messing in the house, I take him outside and he comes in and goes on the paper. He also wets on the floor in the kitchen. He is 4 and a half months old and he is a Retriever Cross Collie. I also have a Golden Retriever who is 3 and a half and I thought the puppy would copy him when we go outside but he does not, he waits to go back in before he does anything.

- The puppy has learnt to toilet on the paper and not outside!
- The puppy will copy the Golden Retriever but we need to teach him that what the older dog is doing is what we want him to do.
- Teach the puppy a command to toilet outside such as 'pee, pee' or 'tinkle' etc. by using a tasty treat.

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6. We have recently got a Fox Terrier puppy she is nearly 4 months old. When we take her for a walk she never seems to want to go to the toilet. We have tried saying to her 'go toilet or go wee wee's' but she doesn't seem to want to know and she then goes as soon as we get home on the paper.

- The puppy has learnt to toilet on the paper and not outside!
- We need to teach them a command rather than just say 'go toilet'.
- When toilet training it's a good idea to tell the puppy that they are good for toileting when out on the walk too, not just when they toilet in the garden.

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7. We bought a puppy almost a week ago. She has settled in really well and we seem to have potty training under way but she is starting to nip quite a bit especially after being told no. How can we stop her from nipping and also reacting after being told no? We have two young children and the dog seems to be treating them at her level or maybe lower. I think maybe she is getting jealous of them as they are human they sit on the sofa but she can't.
- Saying 'ouch' in a high pitched voice can communicate to a puppy that their nipping is too much.
 - Find something that is much more interesting to chew and nip instead of us and use that as a distraction.
 - Dogs see children as littermates and lower ranking members unless convinced otherwise.
 - It's important that children communicate that they are higher ranking than the dog.

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8. We have a Blue Merle who is really, really gorgeous and so loving, but just recently he has taken to jumping up at us when we are on floor level with him and kind of snapping at our faces, ears and noses. He is doing this with affection but his teeth are very, very sharp and so over last couple of weeks we have little injuries from him in his happiness. We have tried putting his soft toys into his mouth when he does this but to no avail really, he does not seem to get the message that his teeth are very sharp. If we are standing up and not at his level he will try and jump up to reach us.
- This puppy is playing with the owners like he would play with his littermates or other dogs.
 - They need to get up and walk away when he becomes over excited and starts snapping at their faces.
 - If he tries to jump up when they are standing, simply turn and walk away.

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9. My 6 month old Dalmatian is a lovely dog but very persistent and he is becoming very difficult to control. He jumps up at doors repeatedly when they are closed despite being told "off" dozens of times, and goes upstairs despite us having fitted a stair gate (he forces his way between the gaps, it's an open tread staircase). He jumps up at the work surfaces in the kitchen and attempts to take any food or anything he can lay his mouth on. I know he is still only a puppy he needs loads of attention and walks (which he gets) but he needs to learn we cannot give him attention all the time. As a family we are getting very worried by his behaviour and he is sadly, no longer much fun to be with in the house.

- Give attention to him when he's doing good rather than unwanted behaviour.
- Put him on a lead and walk him around with you so he gets used to walking around calmly and being part of a balanced pack.
- Teach him boundaries in the kitchen.
- Stay calm, confident and relaxed – frustration, irritation or anger will make his behaviour worse!

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10. My pet dogs, a 7 year old Jack Russell bitch and an 8 month old Fox Terrier bitch have started fighting in a frighteningly vicious way. I know I need to establish myself as the pack leader but have no idea where to start. Unfortunately it has got to the stage that the younger dog may have to be re-homed! Something which I never imagined I would ever consider.

- We have 2 female dogs here fighting for the 'top dog' position.
- Not all dogs like other dogs in the same way that not all people like other people.
- It's essential that the dogs are convinced, in a language they understand, that the female 'top dog' position is taken by the owner and is not available, which in turn will ease the tension between them.