

JUMPY MOUTHY TRAINING TIPS

TREATS: Have treats with you. Treats usually motivate the dog to do what you ask and you can throw treats away from you on the ground to move the dog away from you if the dog is mouthing you.

FREEZE: When the dog starts to mouth, jump or bite at the leash, you should freeze and stop walking. Do not try to tug the leash out of the dog's mouth – pulling on the leash rewards the dog for its inappropriate behavior with a game of tug.

NO TOUCHING OR PUSHING: Do not touch the dog or push at the dog when it jumps on you. Turn your back to the dog and pull hands up against your body away from the dog.

SAY PLEASE: Ask the dog for a "SIT". The dog cannot jump/mouth and sit at the same time.

STEP ON LEASH: If all of the above are not helping, step on the leash to hold the dog down from jumping and stop it from mouthing

LEAVE IT: For dogs that grab, chew, or pull on the leash, use and teach the cue "leave it". If the dog grabs the leash, wave a treat in front of the dog's nose and mouth. It is very difficult for the dog to mouth the leash and sniff to receive the treat at the same time; the dog will likely drop the leash in order to get the treat. Add the cue "leave it" before you wave treat. Ideally, you should also teach the dog to 'leave it' during training sessions where the dog is not grabbing the leash.

TOYS: If the dog likes toys, try substituting a toy for treats. You can also have the dog carry a ball or toy in their mouth when leaving the kennel and on walks.

DELIVER TREAT LOW: If playing in the yard and the dog is jumpy, as the dog starts to come to you hold the treat low at knee level, so as they come racing in they will stay on all four feet to get treat.

BEHAVE CALMLY TO CREATE CALM BEHAVIOR: Speak confidently, calmly, and quietly to the dog, and pet with long, slow strokes (as opposed to rapid patting). Your confidence and calmness can help to settle the dog.



C E N T E R F O R

Shelter Dogs

A PROGRAM OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON