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Excitement Urination

Some dogs will urinate when they are overly excited in greeting. This is often seen in young dogs and they usually grow out of it but in the meantime it can be quite discouraging. It's important to know that your dog has no control over the urination. What is happening is that when he/she is overly excited his/her urinary sphincter relaxes. Because of this - it's important that you never punish your dog for this behavior. That could actually make it worse because now your happy go lucky dog who is SO excited to see you is being punished for saying hi. This might then cause submissive urination upon greeting.

If your puppy or dog urinates when you approach him/her try the following:

1. Keep all greetings and departures calm and brief.
2. During greetings your body posture should be non-threatening. Squat down and turn sideways.
3. Let the dog come to you instead of you approaching him/her.
4. Avoid prolonged eye contact when greeting (this is threatening to dog).
5. Do not pet the dog on his/her head or back during greeting (this is a subtle form of asserting dominance over dogs). Pet him/her under the chin, behind the ears, or on the chest.
6. **DO NOT PUNISH THE DOG UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE !**
7. Eliminate urine odor where the dog has urinated using an enzymatic cleaner.

A nice way to address excitement urination is to teach the dog to perform a particular behavior when greeting humans. You need to teach your dog to do a behavior that is incompatible with urinating. This behavior can be sit, down, roll over, spin or any other behavior you want to teach. Once your dog is conditioned to do this particular behavior whenever he/she greets someone, he/she will be concentrating on doing that and hopefully not urinating.

Step 1 - Choose which behavior you want your dog to do when greeting someone

Step 2 - Teach the dog this behavior during non-greeting times. Make sure you get the behavior on cue (he/she does it whenever you say the command).

Step 3 - Once on cue - start to ask for the behavior when you greet the dog but ask for it **BEFORE** you are close enough to elicit the urination.

Step 4 - Get closer and closer before you ask for the behavior

Step 5 - Generalize the behavior - this means have other people practice the exercises so the dog learns that he/she should do this behavior when greeting anyone.