

EXCITABLE GREETINGS

HOW TO PREVENT:

****Be consistent with the dog. NEVER let it jump up on or greet people "rudely"!****
There are several ways to prevent excitable greetings. One way to prevent excitable greetings is to have the dog on leash. If the dog tries to lunge forward to greet, give an effective correction. The dog will begin to figure out that it gets corrected when it is out of its position beside you. You can also have the people that the dog is greeting help you by asking (or telling) them not to encourage the undesirable behavior by rewarding the dog (petting the dog when it jumps on them or when it breaks its sit/stay). You can also tell them that they can only pet the dog if it is sitting still. If the dog gets too excited by being pet, you can offer to have the dog "shake" with the person instead of being pet while the dog is working.

HOW TO CORRECT:

AN EFFECTIVE CORRECTION CHANGES THE DOG'S BEHAVIOR

With any correction, it helps to have the dog wearing the piece of equipment that gives you the most responsiveness out of the dog. The three types of equipment that CCI uses are the halti (head collar), the prong collar, and the training collar (chain collar). The way to give an effective correction is to correct the dog before it gets to the end of the leash. An effective correction is a quick snap and release on the leash. If the dog is to the end of the leash, you may need to give a little slack and then a correction. You don't want to drag the dog back into position as this can and will cause resistance in the dog.

HOW TO SET UP:

If you aren't always in a position to give an effective correction or you miss your opportunity, you can set up situations. Make sure that you are ready to give a correction and put yourself and your dog into a situation that in the past, the dog has demonstrated excitable greetings. You can have someone that understands the importance of appropriate greetings help you set up the situation. You can have this person greet the dog (by knocking on and entering the door, etc). If the dog is trying to lunge at or jump on the person, you will be ready to correct and be able to give an effective correction. You can also train this person to give the dog a correction as well. After doing this several times, the dog should begin to understand that jumping on people and/or lunging at people is inappropriate behavior.

Remember: It took some time for the dog to learn that it could greet people excitedly. (even if we didn't mean to teach it). Allow time and consistency on your part to establish the correct behavior (greeting people appropriately).

*If the dog excitably greets people that come to your home, you can teach the dog an incompatible behavior. An example would be to teach the dog to go to "bed" when the doorbell rings rather than greeting guests.

You can also train your visitors to ignore the dog for the initial minutes of their visit (until the dog is calmer).

