

Training pays

Young dogs, new tricks

Eighth in a series.

By the time your puppy is 5 or 6 months old, he should eagerly come to you every time you call him. Let's keep him happy by teaching him more learning tricks you both will enjoy.

When you taught your dog to "come when called," you also taught him four words: "come, fetch, give," and "ball."

Now it's time to increase his vocabulary by adding three new words: "sit, stay," and "release."

Until now as your dog returned to you, he has jumped on you, licked your face, and in general acted just like any young pup should.

To prevent him from becoming a compulsive jumper and teach him more self-control, he will now return to you with his ball, sit in front of you, wait for you to take the ball, then release him. Try this simple method and you'll be amazed with the results.

WHEN your dog is running happily toward you with the ball in his mouth, bend forward and firmly put him in the "sit" position, with his nose and toes facing you, six inches away from your knees. As you push his tail to the floor say "sit and stay." Praise him while you make him sit and do not hold him down for long. A young pup is just too excited to sit still for long periods of time.

Next, tell him to "give" and take the ball from his mouth.

Now say "release" or "OK" to tell him the lesson is over and he may play if he wishes. For the one thousandth time, tell him how wonderful he is.

Practice this lesson for a few weeks and soon your puppy will run to you and sit holding his ball. He will then "sit and stay" until you take the ball, "release," and praise him.

THIS LESSON of "sit and stay" should be carried into everyday living. Every time your dog comes to you he should "sit" and "wait" for your attention.

It is important that you give him as much praise when he "sits" as he would get by jumping on you.

When a guest enters your house tell your pup to "sit and stay" and ask your guest to pet him and

praise his good behavior. Remember, no one likes to be jumped on or slobbered all over by your dog.

ONE DAY to make a rainy, miserable day even worse, I realized it was my turn to drive the school car pool.

As I pushed the gang of children out the back door to run for the car, a lonely, half-grown, part English setter ran up and jumped on my coat leaving mud streaks.

THE REASON for this troublesome habit probably is our own inconsistency.

When our dogs bark, bite, or dig up the yard, we are annoyed and correct the dog immediately.

But when our dog affectionately jumps on us while we are wearing old clothes, our hard hearts melt and we respond with affection.

Let him jump on our good suit or ruin our best nylon, though, and we give him a swat and tell him "no." What does this do to our dog? It leaves him confused.

THERE IS A simple solution for this confused dog and his sometimes compassionate, sometimes angry owner. Teach the pet not to jump on anyone except by invitation.

To teach your dog not to jump on you is

simple. In fact, if the pup is small, all you have to do is put his feet firmly back on the floor and say "no" when he jumps. You must do this each time he jumps, and really mean "no" when you say it.

When correcting an older or larger dog, bring up your knee and push against the dog's chest as he jumps, of course, repeating "no." Once again, catching him and making the correction each time he jumps is very important.

Because your dog already knows what "no" means, he will connect the knee push and the voice command very quickly. Within a short time your dog will resist his impulse to jump and keep all four feet on the floor where they belong.

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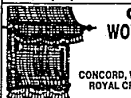


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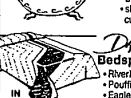
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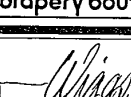
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