

Correcting bad behavior

It is important that you correct your dog's bad behavior before it gets worse. Remember what you might find to be cute or funny may not be appreciated by others. You do not want a bad behavior to become an accepted habit in your home or worse trigger a fight or injury.

Techniques to correct behaviors, without physically touching your dog with your hands, exist. Spanking your dog is not going work but instead will make your dog afraid of your hands especially when you only want to pet him.

Try these techniques: Remember that the key to disciplining your dog is consistency.

-Bitter apple/Lime juice/Lemon juice: great to address barking, nipping, biting, and growling. Bitter apple is sold at stores and instructed to spray on furniture that you do not want your dog to chew on. Honestly I do not find that to work, however by spraying one quirk of this nasty, all-natural, liquid directly into your dog's mouth you have now created a negative consequence to his actions.

Place some bitter apple in a small trial size spray bottle. One that fits comfortably in your hand which can be found in trial size container section or salons. When your dog behaves incorrectly, for example growling at another dog, tell him "NO GROWL" with a firm voice. Give him the chance to correct the behavior on his own. If he acts immediately after the command or does not stop then repeat your command, but while telling him "NO GROWL" you are going to lift of his lip with the pointy finger that is on the spray bottle and spray once directly in his mouth. Again just one spray. Some dogs will hate it so bad that they will create a foam out from their mouth. They are fine.

Monitor your dog's behavior. If he goes at it again, growling, repeat the above. The key is consistency. If you let him get away with it once he will remember.

-Water bottle: This is great for dogs that are difficult to catch in order to discipline, marking their territory in your house or mounting. Water bottles are cheap. Place water only in the bottle and turn it to mist. Make sure to mark it so that the wrong bottle is not used which can be harmful to your dog. Also get more than one bottle. You do not have time to catch your dog in the act while in the living room and the water bottle is in your bedroom.

For example you catch your dog lifting his leg or even smelling a corner he has peed on before. Give him the command of "NO PEE" in a firm voice and spray him with the water bottle. You have now created a consequence. You lift, you get wet. Most dogs do not like to get wet.

-Time outs/Ignoring the dog: You hear about parents who use this on their kids so why not on your dog. I find, especially with the Boston Terriers, that placing them into a situation where they cannot get to you on their terms is devastating. I use time outs after a dog fight or a behavior that is extreme. It gives me a break and the dogs. After disciplining the dog with a water bottle or bitter apple I tell him "TIMEOUT" and walk him to his crate. He is placed in the crate for 5-15 minutes. I do not look at him, speak to him or address his behavior while in the crate. For example if your dog throws a fit by crying and barking you have to ignore him. He is in a Time Out.

Another situation that requires you to separate yourself from your dog is when jealousy is in the picture. You are sitting on the couch with Buster. Abby comes and jumps up to join you. Buster growls, or in some cases snaps at Abby. In this case you tell Buster "NO GROWL" in a firm voice and walk him off the couch leaving Abby on the couch. He lost the privilege to share the space due to his bad behavior. Ignore him while on the ground for a few minutes. Once he has calmed down then invite him back up on the couch to 'share'.

