

SOLUTIONS TO COMMON BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

There is a common theme here, a tired dog is a happy dog!

Destructive Chewing

Stimulation from physical and mental activities will stop your dog from chewing. A tired dog is a happy dog. Supplying your dog with chew toys such as Nylabones, Kongs, bully sticks or busy bones will satisfy the need to chew and should be available to your dog at all times, unless they are possessive of these things and will not let you take them away or may get in fights with your other dogs over them. A good option would be to have a safe place, in a crate or another room, for chewing.

[Extra tips can be found here](#)

Dog Anxiety and Stress

Dogs, just like humans, can get anxious or stressed, especially when they are new to your home and it is still unfamiliar. Exercising your dog by taking it for walks, or playing ball is a good way to reduce stress and anxiety. A tired dog is a happy dog!

[Extra Tips can be found here](#)

Mouthing

Mouthing is a way of communication from dogs to tell you to do a particular thing. When playing with the dog, you need to set boundaries with him in how much they can pull and/or grab. This can be done by using verbal commands that the dog can pick up on to alert them to stop. Consult a qualified trainer if your dog is excessively “mouthy”.

[Extra Tips can be found here](#)

Jumping

Dogs jump for many reasons, but the most common is to say hello, overenthusiastically. When a dog jumps up towards you, cross your arms and turn away and refrain from giving any attention at all. This will make the dog aware that jumping is not a good thing to do and that the only way to get your attention (i.e. praise, petting, etc.) is to have all four feet on the floor. Continuously working with the dog on this method will ultimately stop the dog from jumping when you or anyone else approaches.

[Extra Tips can be found here](#)

Leash Pulling

Some dogs pull on a leash because they are continually being rewarded, i.e. the dog pulls on a leash, and the person walking the dog allows the dog to get where the dog wants to go. The dog walker is taken for a walk, not the other way around. One of the easiest ways to teach a dog not to pull is to simply “be a tree” when the dog pulls. For example, if the dog is pulling you towards a fire hydrant, you should hold still and remain there until the dog stops pulling. Once the dog has stopped walking and there is slack in the leash, call his name, have him look at you in the eye and you can resume walking, praising him for not pulling. If he starts to pull again, repeat, repeat, repeat, repeat, repeat, repeat. Doing this consistently teaches the dog that the only way to continue walking and moving forward is to have slack in the leash. The best kind of walking happens when the leash is short and the dog is right by your leg, with a slack leash. Work towards this to have a dog with excellent dog walking skills. If leash pulling continues, consult a qualified trainer on the use of no-pull equipment, such as Easy Walk Harnesses and Head Halters.

[Extra Tips can be found here](#)

Separation Anxiety

Dogs with separation anxiety may bark or howl, be destructive, and urinate and/or defecate in the house when left alone. These behaviors usually occur when the dog is home alone. Some dogs display signs of separation anxiety shortly after arriving in their new homes, but most get over it, once they are assured that their new family will be coming home soon. Here are some things you can do to help your dog adjust quickly.

Practice short departures. On your dog's first few days in your home, start to leave the house for very short times, if possible. It's very important to **NOT** make a fuss as you are leaving, do it quietly. "See you later" is all you need to say as you walk out the door. First, just go take the trash outside or pick up the mail. Then, leave the house for five-minute intervals. The goal is to have your dog relax when left alone.

Do the same when you return inside, no fuss, no gleeful greeting, it should be boring and routine. "Hi pup" is good enough and then continue into the room to do whatever. Ignore your dog when leaving and don't have a party when you get back will teach your dog to see them as routine activities.

If you find that your dog is anxious about your being gone, give him a delicious and long-lasting chew to have in his crate or another room. Although many anxious dogs won't eat when left alone, some will, and when they do, their anxiety is reduced. Leaving a very delicious chew may be something a dog just can't refuse! Try a Kong toy or hollow marrow bone filled with a wet (frozen last longer) combination of their food, water and chicken stock. Only give this while you are gone and pick it up when you come home.

[Extra Tips can be found here](#)

