

Normal Puppy Behaviour

By Diane Rich Dog Training, LLC www.spokesdog.com

Jumping Up on Family or Guests

Small dogs get latitude with this behavior but no matter the dog's size, best to decide early on if this is a behavior you want long term.

Nipping or Biting

Your ankles, hands, pant legs, robe are all fair game to the mouthy puppy. The behavior can escalate if it is encouraged by rough housing.

Licking

Some dogs are not lickers, some are moderate lickers, and then there are the aerobic lickers. Many people like this behavior, especially from small dogs. It can get out of control easily and become attention seeking. Licking people even other pets is normal however excessive licking of floors, walls, the ground, your clothing are not. See your Vet if this continues.

Chewing

This WILL happen. Some pups are power chewers and need to have something in their mouth during most of their waking hours and others less so. Unsupervised, everything within reach is fair game to explore. Some chewing is teething to help relieve painful gums from permanent teeth erupting. Some chewing is just exploration and the joy of chewing. Sometimes chewing relieves stress and boredom

Accidents

When you gotta go you gotta go. The pup must be taught, fairly how to hold its bladder and relieve itself outdoors or for condo or apartment dwellers on potty pads if you are so inclined. If the family is not diligent about taking a young puppy out to potty frequently, which could mean every couple hours during the day, the clean up committee will be busy addressing the pee or poo left on the living room rug or kitchen floor. Normal and not the pup's fault. Accidents are not "on purposes" and dogs do not have accidents out of spite. Crating a dog too long gives it no option but to dirty its crate. Dogs from pet stores or puppy mills or poor and unclean breeding environments may be the most challenging to housetrain. Be patient but bring you're A game.

Limited Attention Span

Pups are easily distracted. Pups learn best and fastest in your home or in an environment where the distractions are minimal before asking the pup to learn in a stimulating environment. Young pups will mentally crash if they have to endure too many repetitions of specific commands.

Submissive or Excitable Urination

If you have a timid dog and are rough or impatient with this temperament, the response from the dog may be to eliminate when she sees you. Conversely if your dog is off the charts crazy excited upon a greeting, usually something a human creates and reinforces, the pup that does not have great bladder control and will leak some urine. Or, a pup may have weak muscles due to genetics. See your Vet to rule out medical problems and a behaviorist if your Vet finds the pup is healthy.

Grabbing Objects and Running Off

The cute and fast puppy in your home loves to play. Sharing a prize which could be your shoe, dish rag, eyeglasses, remote is not always #1 on its list. Normal. However, this normal dog behavior can easily be addressed with early, sensible training.

Seemingly Deaf to Your Commands

Keep in mind the puppy should learn obedience commands. He will need many successful repetitions of each behavior in a variety of environments and circumstances to give you reliable responses to commands. Early, very positive training is key.

Independence and Willfulness

Around 16 weeks your little ball of fluff will start to test you, the environment, itself and even other dogs. Normal.