Lake Pine Animal Hospital
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Preventing Common Puppy Behavior Problems

> **Most common behavior concerns are normal puppy behaviors that need guidance – not punishment. Early training and consistency prevent long-term issues and help your puppy grow into a well-mannered adult dog.**

Jumping on People

Puppies jump to seek attention. Even negative attention can reinforce the behavior.

- Ignore jumping (no eye contact, no talking, no pushing away)
- Reward calm behavior and four paws on the floor
- Ask for a 'sit' before giving attention
- One trick is to stand on the leash so the puppy can not jump up and then reward them with they sit calmly.

Chewing

Chewing is normal, especially during teething. Prevention is easier than correction.

- Provide appropriate chew toys
- Rotate toys to maintain interest
- Supervise closely and redirect immediately
- Keep shoes, cords, and valuables out of reach
- Keep a special Toy that is just in the crate.

Nipping and Play Biting

Mouthing is a normal part of development, but it must be redirected.

- Redirect to a toy immediately
- Stop play briefly if biting continues
- Avoid rough play that encourages biting hands or clothing
- Reinforce calm play behavior
- If persistnat, a firm "No Bite" can help.

Demand Barking

Puppies quickly learn that barking gets attention.

- Avoid responding immediately to attention-seeking barking
- Reward quiet behavior
- Ensure adequate physical and mental stimulation daily

Teaching Calm Behavior

- Reward relaxed behavior throughout the day
- Practice short periods of quiet independence
- Avoid constant stimulation or excitement
- Provide structured daily routines

When to Seek Guidance

Contact us if you notice persistent growling, guarding behavior, extreme fear, or escalating aggression. Early intervention is far more effective than waiting.

Early training builds lifelong habits. Lake Pine Animal Hospital is here to support you in raising a confident, well-behaved companion.