



EXCITED / APPEASEMENT URINATION

As your adoption counselor discussed with you, your dog displays excited and / or appeasement urination. This behaviour can develop for a number of reasons and hopefully; with some help, it can be eliminated.

The Plan:

Avoid triggering your dog into a state of excitement in which they lose control of their bladder.

The Practice:

Excited Urination

To avoid triggering your dog into excited urination, minimize the opportunity to provoke your dog into doing so. For example, when you come home from work this is a very exciting time for your dog. The best strategy is initially ignore your dog. Do not make eye contact or act in an excited manner at all when first arriving home. Lead your dog outside to urinate. Once they have done their business mark them with a job well done before *calmly* greeting your dog.

This will soon become a habit for your dog – to go outside and urinate before greeting you, and eventually, have the ability to remain calm while greeting them (always).

When you have guests visit, ask them to ignore your dog when they arrive.

Appeasement Urination

Some dogs will also urinate when they feel anxious or threatened. In these circumstances avoid the following postures / interactions;

- Making direct eye contact
- Bending over the dog
- Reaching toward the dog
- Reaching over the dog's head
- Hugging the dog
- Approaching the dog head-on

A less-threatening approach could be as follows:

Avoid making direct eye contact with the dog

Squat down and present your side to the dog, remain still and allow the dog to investigate you on *their* time

Once the dog has raised their courage enough to investigate you, **do not** break their trust by reaching toward them / touching them

If the dog is too nervous to approach you, toss treats in their direction, rather than asking the timid dog to take a treat from your hand.

If the dog is nervous but engaging you, slowly reach for their shoulder or chest for a slow, calm pet.

Georgian Triangle Humane Society

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Keep in mind that punishment of any kind, including harsh tones, can cause inappropriate urination. Always evaluate your own body posture and vocal tones at the time of the urination, being mindful to adjust them in the future.

Cleaning up accidents with an enzymatic cleaner

If an accident does happen, clean it up with an enzymatic cleaner (such as Nature's Miracle or Simple Solution), which neutralizes the odor, and some paper towels. Don't ever punish or raise your voice at a dog for urinating in the house as it is normally unintentional.

Support:

Our Behaviour Support Team can help to provide resources and tips if you experience concerns in the home environment. With your adoption the GTHS will provide an over the phone consultation in order to provide you with tips and resources to set your new dog up for success. In all cases of dog adoptions, the GTHS recommends hiring a professional dog training or behavioural consultant to ensure your relationship with your new dog starts off on the right paw! A list of local trainers is enclosed in your adoption package.

Our Behaviour Support Team can be reached at behaviour@gths.ca

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