



## ADDRESSING JUMPY / MOUTHY BEHAVIOUR

### Prerequisites:

Ensure that your dog knows the SIT and / or DOWN command before bringing them to a stimulating environment (such as outdoors).

### The Practice

- You will need treats for this exercise.
- Ensure leash is secure in active ring on collar.
- If your dog begins jumping and mouthing step on the dog's leash long enough that he can sit or stand comfortably but short enough that jumping up will cause the dog to self-correct on leash.
- When your dog stops attempting to jump & mouth mark with YES and treat them.
- Direct your dog into a sit or down each time they attempt mouthing behaviour.
- When they respond to the cue, mark with "YES", give treat and lavish in praise. Do this even if the dog begins with mouthing behaviour.
- Once the dog has grasped the concept of the exercise; jumping up is uncomfortable, sit gets me treats; remove the cue and replace with ah-ah.  
For example; dog mouths, instead of directing to SIT, as they now know what is expected, give a verbal correction ah-ah and wait for sit. Once the dog responds mark with "YES", give treat and lavish in praise.
- The progress of this exercise should be as follows; Dog learns sit / down cue. Dog attempts mouth, is directed to sit (or down) gets treated. Dog attempts to mouth, received verbal correction ah-ah, dog sits, and gets treated. Dog replaces mouthing behaviour with sit / down, handler treats and lavishes in praise. Once the mouthing behaviour is seemingly extinct, begin to intermittently reinforce the sit / down behaviour with praise / treats.
- Things to note: The dog may practice an extinction burst; seemingly making great progress and then suddenly reverts back to the undesirable behaviour. It is important to follow through with previous training, you may have lost ground but it will not take long to regain it.
- Always end the exercise on a good note.

### 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](mailto:behaviour@gths.ca)

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## Georgian Triangle Humane Society

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