

- Once your dog has remained quiet a few times, add in the cue. While your dog is barking, give your quiet command in a firm but upbeat voice while holding up the reward. Give your dog the reward when the barking stops.
- Practice this cue frequently. You can do it anytime that your dog is barking but keep training sessions brief.

As with most other problem behaviours, determining the cause of the digging and working at eliminating the source will be the key. Otherwise, providing an appropriate space to dig and training them to use that space will help save your garden.

Separation Anxiety

This is one of the most commonly discussed Behaviour Problems and it can manifest itself in any or all of the other problem behaviours! If your dog is exhibiting any problems behaviours, it doesn't necessarily mean that they have Separation Anxiety. True signs of Separation Anxiety include:

- Your dog starts to become anxious when you are preparing to leave home.
- Problem behaviours happen in the first 15-45 minutes after you have left.
- When you are home, your dog follows you around constantly
- Dog tries to be touching the owner whenever possible and begins to show signs of anxiety if this is prevented.

True separation anxiety requires dedicated training, behaviour modification and desensitisation exercises. In some extreme cases it can be caused by an imbalance in the chemicals in the brain and may require medications. Ensuring that you always give your puppy some 'alone time' and encourage their independence can help to prevent this.



Inappropriate Urinating/defecating

This is different to a puppy that is not fully house-trained and revolves around a dog consistently eliminating in an inappropriate space despite being fully toilet trained and having ample opportunity to eliminate in an appropriate area. It should be noted that there are several health problems that can lead to this behaviour, so it is important that you discuss this behaviour with your veterinarian FIRST to rule out any health problems.

If no medical cause is found, try to determine the reason for the behaviour. Following are some of the more common reasons:

- Submissive/excitement urination
- Territorial marking
- Anxiety
- Attention-seeking
- Lack of proper toilet training.

Many dogs require serious behaviour modification to rid them of the habit because you often have to completely retrain them and alter their perception of themselves.

Begging

Begging is a bad habit, but many dog owners do not see it as such and actually encourage it. Dogs beg because they love food, however table scraps are not treats, and FOOD IS NOT LOVE! In fact, having regular table scraps can often lead to digestive problems and obesity which can lead to a lot more problems. Those longing looks are hard to resist but giving in “just this once” creates bigger problems in the long run. Teaching your dog that begging is permitted sends them the wrong message.

Before you sit down to eat, tell your dog to go their mat/bed/crate which should preferably be in a place where they will not be able to stare at you. If necessary, confine them to another room. If they behave, give them a special treat – this should only be given once you and your family have completely finished eating.



Chasing

A dog's desire to chasing moving objects is simply a display of predatory instinct and centuries of training. Many dogs will chase other animals, people and cars, all of which can lead to some pretty devastating and dangerous outcomes! While you often can't stop your dog from trying to chase, you can take steps to prevent disaster. Your best chance at success is to keep the case from getting out of control. Providing dedicated training over the course of your dog's life will teach them to focus on YOU before running off.

- Keep your dog on a leash at all times, unless in a dedicated off-leash area. It is important to note that this is a law in Queensland and can lead you with a big fine if you don't comply.
- Train your dog to come when called and have excellent recall
- Have a dog whistle or other noisemaker on hand to get your dog's attention.
- Always stay aware and watch for potential triggers like runners and bikes.

Jumping up

This is another natural behaviour for dogs as puppies will jump up to reach and greet their mothers. However, when they begin to jump up to greet people, they can also start to jump up to exert dominance. A jumping dog can be annoying and even dangerous if they are a big dog jumping on children especially. Make sure you are continuing your training to teach your puppy how to be settled when meeting new people to help prevent this.

Biting

Dogs bite for reasons that can be traced back to instinct and pack mentality. Puppies bite and nip other dogs in their pack as a way to learn their place and to explore their environment. Owners must show their puppies that biting is not acceptable by using the techniques we went through earlier in the course.



Beyond puppy behaviour, the motivation to bite or snap comes from the following:

- Fear or defensiveness
- Protection of property
- Pain or sickness
- Dominance assertion
- Predatory instinct

It should be noted that ANY breed of dog can have a tendency to bite. Proper training and socialisation are essential to decreasing the tendency in your own dog.

Aggression

True aggression is shown by growling, snarling, showing teeth, lunging and biting. It is important to note that similar to biting, ANY dog has the potential to become aggressive regardless of their breed or history. The reasons for aggression are essentially the same as for biting, but overall canine aggression is a much more serious problem.

As we discussed in week 1, aggression does not emerge overnight. There will be subtle social cues and body language clues that your dog will start to exhibit. Often aggression comes from anxiety, however it may also stem from a health problem. As such, your first step should always be to consult your veterinarian.

I've finished puppy preschool, what happens now?

Training for your dog is a life-long pursuit and can ensure that they stay mentally engaged. It also provides something fun and bonding that they can do with yourselves for the rest of their life. There are plenty of training schools and clubs around Brisbane, below are some that we have had recommended to us by other clients. We've also listed some of the other fun activities that you and your dog may enjoy. These are a little more advanced and often need your dog to have an excellent recall, be calm off-lead and especially calm around other dogs.

When you are looking for a training school, make sure that they practice positive reinforcement. Any good training school or club should be happy for you to come along and watch a session to see how they operate.

Remember, each dog is different! Some dogs thrive on being mentally challenged, other dogs like to chase things, and some will do much better with one-on-one training at home with just the family. If you have any questions about enrichment for your dog, don't hesitate to ask us!

1. Further Obedience Training
 - Canine Classroom
 - RSPCA School for Dogs
 - Pawsitive Connection
 - Positive Response Dog Training
 - Urban Dog Training
2. Agility Classes
 - Brisbane Agility Dog Club
 - Urban Dog Training
3. Flyball
 - Flyball Fanatics (In Wacol and Macgregor)