

Balance Unleashed Dogs

Demanding and Pushy Behaviours

Does your dog bark or whine at you for attention? Does your puppy drop a ball in your lap for you to throw? Does your dog nudge you to pet them?

Unless you have taught your dog to do these things purposely they are attempting to take leadership away from you. If you think it's cute or fun or loving that they are 'so smart' to be 'asking' you to do these things you may end up with other behaviour problems down the line. If a dog takes on leadership and they are not socially, emotionally or mentally prepared for it (most aren't), they will start showing many different forms of behaviour problems.

Possible Behaviour Problems

- Barking at others if you are talking to them
- Growling if you aren't fast enough to get them what they want
- Guarding behaviours- people, objects, furniture
- Becoming obsessive over balls or toys
- Aggression or fear aggression
- Biting

So you can see that this really isn't a cute or funny or loving thing they are doing. It is actually very important to them if you don't follow the demands they're being pushy over. Some dog breeds have been bred to anticipate or take charge because they were assisting farmers or shepherds. These dogs can be some of the pushy or demanding culprits. However, if any dog breed is bored or not being challenged mentally or physically they can become pushy and demanding to have their needs met.

More Behaviours you may see if your dog is pushy & demanding

- Your dog scratches at the door so you will open it.
- Your dog obsessively barks when you put them somewhere they can't get to you.
- Your dog grabs your hand or touches any part of you with their mouth.
- Your dog wakes you up in the morning.

Dogs learn by repetition so the more you let them be pushy and demanding the more they learn it's ok and to push for more and become spoiled. This is not a healthy relationship. A spoiled dog that gets what it wants becomes the leader, ready, willing or able or **not**.

So how can you make it better?

- Ignoring the pushy and demanding behaviors now. "no touch, no talk, no eye contact". When the dog is demanding, act like they are not in the room.
- They Expect or I Invite. When I invite a dog to come to me or sit on my couch I am asking them for calm behaviour and making it ok.
- If your dog demands affection, ignore it (no touch, no talk, no eye contact). If you want to give affection, call the dog to you. They come over, you give love because they did something for you. If they don't come, get them so you follow through with what you asked them. **Very important** that you follow through.
- If a dog is barking or pawing or jumping when you want to feed them, wait until they stop and have 4 feet on the floor before feeding. Otherwise they think all the pushiness gets food in the bowl.
- The best way to keep play on your terms is to have a favourite toy of theirs out of reach until you are ready to play. That way when you bring it out you are inviting them to play and taking the lead in the game. You also take the lead when you put it away after playtime.
- Your dog must be calm before letting them out of a crate.
- Your dog must be calm before being invited onto the couch with or without you.
- Certain types of touch **cannot** be ignored and must be **corrected**. Dogs who climb on you or your back when you try to ignore them **must** be **corrected**

If you need more information or would like help of any kind please contact me and I will do my best to bring the best out of you and your dog's relationship.