



Guests and Greetings with Puppies

Puppies often struggle with impulse control when meeting new people. The goal is to have the puppy maintain impulse control when interacting with people. Puppies should keep all four paws on the ground and should have a calm experience.

If a puppy shows hesitation or reluctance to interact with people, do not force them to do so. Let the PDT know and they will work to create a plan for the puppy.

One thing to consider is that your guests may be inadvertently reinforcing Pup by verbally interacting, even if they are discouraging the behavior. Try having pup on leash and working through the following steps to see if they help;

- 1.) Guests come in the home and completely ignore pup, pup is on leash away from the door. Reinforce for a "Sit", "Down" or "Place" using clicker and treats.
- 2.) Once things settle down, guests can verbally say hello to pup while they still maintain position. If they are not able to handle the level of attention given you can have your guests tone it down a little bit or move further away.
- 3.) If pup is able to maintain position while the guests say a verbal hello, they can approach to pet them while still on leash. Pup should be sitting in "Heel" position by your left side and maintain position while being pet. If they stand up, begin mouthing or do anything other than sit and wiggle, have your guests step back and wait for pup to get back into position. You shouldn't have to re-cue the "Sit", so give the pup up to 10 seconds to make this move on their own.
- 4.) If pup is able to hold position while being pet, you can remove the leash and allow them to visit with the guests. Encourage the guests to use a calm voice and calm petting so as to not excite pup even more. If they begin to jump, mouth, etc. they should go back on leash.

The above steps should help to set both pup and the guests up for success and you should be able to progress through the steps fairly quickly once you get started. After having guests visit two or three times, you should see a drastic improvement in behavior.