

## 'SHOULD I ALLOW MY DOG ON FURNITURE?'

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Training Tip Tuesday - 'Should I allow my dog on furniture?'

This is a common question, and quite a topic of controversy amongst many trainers! My answer is always "It depends!"

If your dog is respectful and you are not having any major issues then yes - absolutely they can join you for a snuggle and some cartoons on the couch! There are however, rules. They must wait for an invite up. They must respect your space while they are there. (You can invite them close for a snuggle, but they shouldn't be climbing all over you!) And they **MUST** get down without protest the moment you ask.

To teach your pup to wait for an invite, and to jump off when asked start with your dog on a leash. Walk in to the room and ask your dog to sit on the floor next to the couch, while you sit on the couch. If he jumps the gun and hops up without permission, just say 'nope' and escort him to the ground again. Talk to him and praise him for sitting on the floor. When he has settled into this position, invite him up with you by patting the couch and encouraging him up. Remember to control your space - assign him a place and ask him to settle there. Praise him up, then toss a treat on the floor a few feet away from the couch and say 'Off!'. When he jumps down for the treat, praise!

Practice this a few times, then test it! Walk up to the couch and see if your dog offers the sit. If he does, praise! Invite him to join you for a snuggle. Give a few minutes of affection, then say 'Off' without tossing anything. If he jumps down on his own, toss the treat to him and praise! If he doesn't - just help him along, and keep practicing.

Play the on again/off again game during commercial breaks! On the couch for the program, off the couch for the commercial! Keep it fun!

Oh - and one last note on the word 'off' ... we want to be clear for our dogs. Many people will say 'Down' - to our ears it makes sense, we want our dogs to get down from the couch.. but we taught our dogs that "down" means lay down... one word can't have two meanings! Don't say down when you really mean 'off'! Same goes for jumping up, or putting paws on the counter... Down means lay down, not get down!

<https://youtu.be/2VANyrM8XXg>