

Training Tip Tuesday – Getting dressed

Your dog should love his leash/collar/harness – but he shouldn't make it impossible to put on! If your dog wiggles about and acts ridiculous; this tip is for you!

The concept is simple; acting up makes the good things go away. Showing some level of self-control brings them back. If you pick up your dog's leash, and he starts to bounce off the walls; then put the leash down and walk back into the other room. It may take a few tries; especially if your pup is a wall-bouncing pro! Eventually, you will pick the leash up, and he will keep his feet on the floor. Hooray! Hook him up quickly and head outside! Don't ask for perfection; he doesn't need to sit for 15 minutes while you get your stuff together; as long as he's taken it down a notch – that's good enough! You can raise the standard gradually over the week. Perhaps you start with not bouncing, then you ask him to just stand still, then finally you get a sit. Take your time and work through baby steps. You also don't need to use a food reward here – his leash is his reward. He's excited about it, he wants it to happen, and he will learn that being calm gets him what he wants!

If you need to put a collar or harness on; teach your pup the cue 'get dressed'. Invite him to participate in the activity. Instead of wrestling him to the ground to put his accessories on; let him help! Start by just luring your pup's head through the collar or harness. (If it's a step in harness; teach it the same way you did 'paws up' and get him to step on the harness while it's on the ground). Once he's poked his head through, if he starts wiggle-butting to the door – stop. Just like the leash. If he's going to be silly; take your hands off, look away... just wait for a better behavior. As soon as it's offered, continue! Don't yell, or try to hold him down – you're just making it a game. No touch, no talk, no eye contact until he does something better!

PS- This video was never meant to be a training video; I sometimes shoot random video around the training room for various purposes. Forgive the grungy shirt and slip ons!

https://youtu.be/tpphWk2N_AU