

B. Crouching down after the dog sits often avoids jumping.



Puppies and Adult Dogs WETTING SUBMISSIVELY

When a puppy or mature dog starts wetting for no reason except that it is approaching or being approached by a person or another dog, or even when entering a certain area, the dog is not urinating deliberately. That is, it is not consciously performing the act . . . It is responding on a purely emotional level. Something about the situation stimulates extreme feelings of submission in the dog.

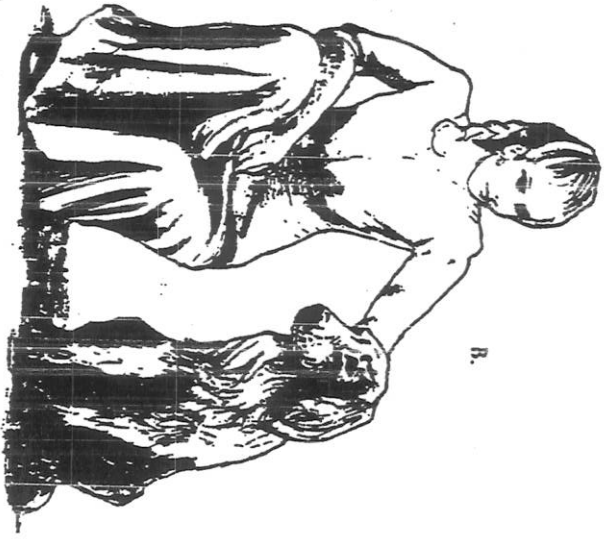
So that we can understand the dog's point of view in what seems like 'senseless' behavior, let us examine where the act of submissive wetting originates.

FIRST SIGNS

The earliest submissive behavior that puppies display is seen after their mother first feeds them. She nudges each pup over onto its back or side with her snout, holds it there and licks it from face to tail. The pup's reactions to this are to raise its paw when the mother is licking its chin and neck which is where submissive paw-raising seems to originate and to urinate and defecate when the mother is licking its genitals and anus, which is where submissive urination has its roots.

As the pup grows older, gaining its eyesight, the mother merely has to look as if she intends to roll it over for the toilet ritual to achieve urination, if not defecation. This saves the mother time and also prepares the pups to become den-trained when they are able to follow outside for their elimination later in life.

So, submissive urination is the puppy response to a dominant look, in its early stages. However, as further maturity occurs the pups gain some control over this response. Depending on experience it may never again



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So, submissive urination is the puppy response to a dominant look, in its early stages. However, as further maturity occurs the pups gain some control over this response. Depending on experience it may never again

be displayed in adulthood. In cases of extreme stress, that is, stress from the pup's point of view, the submissive urination can recur. One thing is apparent: your submissive wetting pup or dog is probably not deliberately misbehaving but is responding due to excitement, apprehension or even fear. If you genuinely appreciate this, you can then deal with the problem without getting angry or upset. Submissive wetting demands well-controlled emotions if it is to be corrected.

ANALYZE PROBLEMS

The problem usually occurs when the pet is faced by someone who approaches, takes a stance, looks or speaks threateningly or elicits excitement, such as at homecomings. Do a little fact-finding about your situation. When does the wetting take place?

When you or others are facing the dog?

When you lean over it?

When reaching to pick it up?

When you scold or raise your voice?

When you or others get excited?

At homecoming?

Identify the things that 'trigger' the dog to urinate and then get ready to change your behavior and the problem can be cleared up. The time required will be from a few days up to six weeks, depending on your skill and the severity of the problem.

The first step is to remove any signs of threat at those key times when the dog wets: homecomings, visitors calling, when you scold if the dog misbehaves, etc. You have to analyze your own situation.

USE THE CROUCH

If your pet wets when you approach, then do not approach. Instead, crouch right down and turn your side toward the dog. Do not hold out your hand, especially palm down or over the dog's head. Avoid direct eye contact. Let the dog approach you. If it seems to be in 'control,' so to speak, pet it under the chin lightly. If this produces wetting, withhold petting for a few more days and then try it again.

AVOID TALKING

Avoid speaking at these times for about four days. Then, see if saying 'Good dog' will produce wetting. If not, keep up the routine for four days and on these occasions ask the dog to 'sit' and tell it 'Good dog' when it complies. If speaking stimulates the wetting, withhold it for four days and then try it again.

Run through the situations at least three times in a row daily if you can. For instance, if entering through the door at homecoming produces wetting, follow the program as just described, then go out and come in immediately again... and again.

In most situations four days are required before submissive wetting dis-

appears when you remain crouched. When this happens you should approach the situation standing, keeping your sidewise position relative to the dog.

BACKSLIDING

If wetting occurs, go back into the crouch. Let the dog's reactions tell you how to behave. If you see that tail-tale squat start in the dog, back off a step and start over until you can again proceed.

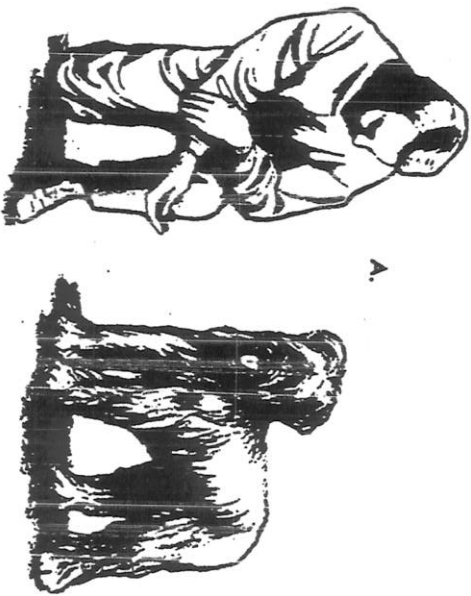
During the program your dog may gain so much confidence that it jumps up on you or others. Tolerate this for awhile, say about a week. Then just sidestep the jumps and they will usually eradicate themselves.

INVOLVE OTHERS

Avoid the mistake of carrying out the entire program yourself. Get others into the act. Make sure you let them know the techniques you are using. Show them. When several other people have gone through it with the dog, it will be a great benefit to the permanency of the correction.

When two weeks have passed with none of the wetting you can feel you have reached your goal. In case of backsliding, simply start at the beginning of the program again. Correction should only take a few 'sessions' in this case.

Throughout your program be patient, understanding and optimistic. Your mood will be sensed by your pet and things will proceed more quickly.



A. Remove the threat by crouching sidewise to the dog, even leaning away from it. Avoid eye contact at first. Let the dog make its approach in its own time. Do not force attentions on it.