



Caring Hands Humane Society

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SUBMISSIVE URINATION

Submissive urination is more common in female dogs, understanding why this occurs can be the difference between correcting the situation or making it worse. In a dog's world this is a totally acceptable and necessary trait to establish where one belongs in the pack.

This is her way of acknowledging you as leader of the pack, it is in fact a very high honor and she feels you should be appeased by it. We humans often perceive this as a house training issue, becoming angry and raising our voice will only confuse her, causing her to do it even more to deflect your anger and acknowledge your superiority. If handled correctly puppies will usually outgrow this behavior. Before you decide your dog has this problem take her or him to a veterinarian to rule out any possible medical conditions.

Submissive Urination Characteristics

- Ø Ducking the head
- Ø Tail tucked
- Ø Fast, low tail wagging
- Ø Avoiding eye contact
- Ø Rolling on back
- Ø Laying ears back

Submissive urination is most likely to occur when your dog is being greeted or reprimanded or even in the presence of other dogs or intimidating circumstances. The release of urine can also occur when your dog is excited.

Excited Urination Characteristics

- Ø Wiggling
- Ø Jumping
- Ø Fast, high tail wagging
- Ø Barking

By now you're wondering, what can I do to get her to stop urinating? It's really very simple. You must **STOP DOING THE THINGS THAT MAKE HER URINATE**. This is going to be the hardest part for you because you must learn to stop being a human, well at least stop doing the instinctive things we humans do when we meet or greet an animal.

- Ø Direct eye contact

- Ø Bending over the dog
- Ø Speaking in loud or deep, or excited voice
- Ø Approaching in a straight line

Puppies will usually outgrow this behavior if you respond correctly to it. You must remember your dog has no control over this behavior and becoming angry will only make it worse, stay calm, they will sense your body language and respond by urinating. Get down to her level when you greet her, contain your own facial, body and voice excitement to see her when coming home from work. Toss a treat on the floor as a way of saying hello. They must not feel threatened or overly excited!

Ø Frequent trips outside to relieve the bladder will help decrease the amount of submissive urination when it does happen. It can even help eliminate some of it entirely since a full bladder releases more easily.

- Ø If it does happen calmly take your dog outside then go back in and clean it up
- Ø Move slowly
- Ø Speak in a soft voice
- Ø When arriving home, immediately take her outside and greet her there
- Ø No rapid body movement
- Ø No loud voices
- Ø No excited voices
- Ø No towering over your dog

Once you have mastered not doing the instinctive things we humans do that triggers her response to release and all seems to be going well, along comes a visitor. If you know that you will be having company, put her outside to potty just before they arrive and possibly allow her to greet them in the yard. Frequent visitors should be trained in proper greeting techniques. You should be able to decrease the frequency of this behavior to a tolerable level. I simply keep a roll of paper towels and enzymatic cleaner handy at all times. The love and joy we share with each other far outweighs the occasional tinkle.

CHHS Staff