

PET TRAINING BEHAVIOR GUIDE

Overexcited **PETSMART**

Very often we get extremely overexcited dogs in class and that's probably why they're there! These excitable dogs can be a disruption in class and frustrating for pet parents. Below are some tips to help dogs be less excitable but still interested in the training class.

- Exercise your dog well before class without over tiring your dog. This helps with the unruly dogs, but it's a good idea for all dogs on the first day.
- Bring YUMMY, small and a lot of treats to class and also bring your dog hungry. This will allow you to reinforce frequently for calm behavior.
- Mark and treat for calm/quiet behavior.
- Use chew bones or stuffed Kong's to keep your dogs occupied during lecture portions of the class.
- If your dog is constantly pulling/lunging at the end of the leash, hold the leash in your hand and also anchor the leash using your foot (or feet). If your dog is pulling and you have the leash in your hand, not only is that probably going to raise your frustration level, it will also provide a little "give" or movement each time your dog pulls/ lunges (which will reinforce the pulling). If your dog is anchored with the leash under foot, they almost always calm down faster because they won't keep fighting an immovable force.
- The Focus cue can help calm your dog down.
- It might be worth considering a Gentle Leader or front-clip harness to give you more control over your dog's pulling.
- If your dog is over-stimulated by the other dogs (more than the place or the people), more dog-dog socialization may be needed, whether at the dog park or at Doggie DayCamp at the PetsHotel.
- Don't be embarrassed about your dog's behavior; this is why you're in class to learn how to work with your dog.
- Most importantly, remain calm, as your dog will behave even worse if they know you're frustrated.



Focus Steps:

1. Start with your dog on leash in a very quiet area with no distractions. Have treats ready in a pocket or treat bag. Simply wait for your dog to look at you.
2. Use your marker (word or clicker) when your dog looks at you.
3. Immediately give a treat to the dog.
4. Increase time dog looks at you by withholding reward for several seconds

