



Copper Ridge
Dog Training

Stop your Dog from Jumping on Guests

The holidays bring friends, family, and festive chaos — which can be exciting for your pets, too! But if your dog gets overly enthusiastic and jumps on guests, it can lead to spilled drinks, scratched clothing, or even frightened visitors. Here's how to keep everyone happy and calm this holiday season.



Manage the Environment

Before guests arrive, set your pet up for success. Use baby gates, crates, place command, or leashes to manage their space. This gives them time to calm down before being fully introduced to visitors. A little separation at first is not punishment — it's a chance for your pet to settle and make a better impression later.

Practice Calm Greetings

Work on polite greetings before the big day. Have family members or friends help you practice:

- Ask your dog for a known command such as "*sit*", "*down*", or "*place*" when someone enters your home.
- Only allow guests to approach and give attention when your dog remains calm.
- If they jump, have the guest withhold attention until your dog is calm again.

Consistency is key — your dog learns that calm behavior gets them what they want: attention!





Reward the Right Behavior

Keep small treats nearby so you can reward calm behavior around guests. When your dog keeps all four paws on the floor or chooses to sit instead of jump, immediately praise and treat them. Over time, they'll associate calmness with good things.



Give an Alternative Behavior

Some pets just have too much excitement to contain. Redirect that energy by giving them an alternative behavior:

- Offer a special chew toy, puzzle feeder, or lick mat as guests arrive.
- Send them to place until their energy has come down

Giving them an alternative behavior can help them stay calm and prevent reinforcement of unwanted behaviors.



Communicate with your Guests

Not everyone knows how to greet pets politely. Ask guests to ignore your pet until they're calm. A calm, confident human response (no squealing, no sudden movements) helps your pet mirror that energy.

Be Patient and Consistent

Training takes time — especially when distractions are high during the holidays. Keep practicing, stay consistent, and remember that your pet is just excited to join the fun.

- 📌 If your pet struggles with impulse control or gets overly excited even after practice, consider a refresher session with your trainer before the holidays.