2012 Voted #1 Denver Dog Training

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Join our MEETUP group: <http://www.meetup.com/Denver-Dog-Behavior-with-Misha-May-Foundation/>

LIKE our Facebook pages: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/The-Misha-May-Foundation/277796348045>

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/MMF.Understandingdogs?fref=ts>

**In-Home Services:** Animal Communication, Dog Behavior, Reiki

**Door Manners & Greetings**

*Why do dogs bark, lunge, jump up or rush the door?*

A dog can have a natural impulse to warn, protect, defend, garner attention and greet.

The dog may be untrained, curious, excited, fearful or of a guarding breed.

He may have received inconsistent messages, intermittent rewards or confusing training.

The dog may have developed a negative conditioned emotional response to people at the door because their arrival signifies punishment and corrections which raise his anxiety level, but don’t teach him the acceptable behavior.

*Learning Theory and the Science of Change*

Ignore the undesirable, reward the desirable

Help habituate through counterconditioning and desensitization

Develop and strengthen a positive conditioned emotional response

*General Management of Undesirable Behavior while Training to Change the Behavior*

Disconnect doorbell, no solicitors sign, ask friends to call and give warning

Use of crates and gates, put in room with chewable distraction

Keep a light leash on the collar for easy access and control

Be prepared with treats, distracting toys

Practice with friends who are willing to help

*Ascertain Dog’s Goal, the Motivation and Change His Conditioning to Stop the Behavior*

\*Warning – just doing his job – THANK him for 1 or 2 barks and then engage him in something else

\*Protect – believes you are in danger – CREATE a positive association with the visitor through treats

\*Defend – believes you are in imminent danger – TAKE him out of the situation

\*Attention – wants to get it but isn’t sure of acceptable ways – REWARD him for sitting

\*Greet – wants to smell your mouth, look in your eyes, receive acknowledgement - IGNORE when he jumps up, acknowledge when his four feet are on the floor

\*To do what’s right – making it up – TEACH him exactly what you want him to do

\*Find out what’s going on – assuage his curiosity – INCLUDE him with a jolly voice and calming cue

\*Wants to belong - excited to join in – CALM everything down

\*To Not Be Afraid or Feel Threatened – wants to keep strangers away – VISITORS bring treats but don’t approach, reach or look at him as he gets to make the first move

*Techniques to Train New Behavior – choose one or two and practice. He will often get worse before he gets better – extinction burst.*

Say ‘Thank you’ in a jolly voice, then quickly lead him to a bed or another room where he is rewarded.

Plan visits where he gets delicious treats from everyone.

Keep a light leash on him and name his ‘sit’ a special name ‘greetsit’ that associates sitting with rewards from visitors.

With multiple dogs, praise the one who is quiet, ignore the one acting out. Switch if the switch.

Walk him through what you want him to do over and over WHEN NO ONE IS THERE!

Practice with folks entering quietly and calmly and tossing treats.

If he wants attention, have person leave. If he is frightened or defensive, have person be still.

Practice with knocking or the doorbell, saying ‘it’s company!’ and giving a treat.

*Case Studies*

“I’m a shepherd, therefore I guard.” Barks twice at door, then goes to nearby bed to ‘guard’.

“I’m a very smart border collie and already know how to ‘go to bed’.” Goes to bed in corner until calm.

“A ‘greetsit’ gets me attention and treats.” Too excited to ‘sit’ but can do new cue ‘greetsit’.