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This article has been developed for our Clever Puppy Training customers. We value your business and hope it helps!

Although we have used the word 'couch' in the article it can be used to suit other furniture such as the bed, tables, chairs or possibly even the bench. Just keep in mind if it is the bench or table make sure you never leave valued articles there that would encourage your dog to keep trying (like food!) as some breeds (Labradors & beagles especially) can be ruled by their stomach!

In regards to the jumping up on the couch; I guess this is fun for a young pup. I recall my own doing this many years ago. Keep in mind he/she may also be doing this for attention so if your first correction has little effect and she returns to jumping on the couch then try time out.

Firstly make sure your puppy knows where to go and make sure ALL family members follow the house rules (often dogs just on the furniture because a family member has allowed them or encourages them on the bed or couch and this makes training 10x harder.

Make sure you encourage the puppy to use their bed or allocated mat inside the house; teach them that this is where you would like them to go & this is where they get pats, treats and attention. You can move this bed or have more than one bed for them depending on where the family is at the time (they like to be around the family).

Unless you have trained the where to go, it is unfair to be harsh with them if they are finding their own places to explore.

If you find your puppy on the bed or couch then calmly say 'no' and call them off as you walk toward the area you would like them to go. Keep the attention minimal and try not to 'bribe' with toys or treats. If you say now and are standing still calling them off you may be discouraging them from moving with your body language so be sure to start moving away as you call them off to the more appropriate area.

If a lead is needed then stay calm and use with caution so as not to cause fear or anxiety (which can lead to aggression). Speak to your trainer about slip leads as the lead can be slipped over the pups head to provide extra encouragement to lead them to the more appropriate place.

May I suggest you crowd the couch with furniture etc over the next few weeks to minimise the frustration and try to break the habit. I have been known to use the washing basket and various bags & boxes (yes my own dog went through that habit for a little while when he was sleeping indoors... And it only ever happened after my husband decided to encourage him onto the 'old' couch in the shed as he thought it was nice they could cuddle up!) Some couches you may also be able to flip the cushion up as well. Just make it as unappealing and difficult as possible; especially for when you can't keep a close eye on him/her.

In regards to the bed; just close the bedroom door or block access with a child gate (a fantastic tool!)

And lastly make sure your puppy or dog gets lots of exercise as best as you can. When a dogs drive & energy is fulfilled they are much less likely to misbehave. See also our booklet 101 Ways to keep your dog entertained.

Good luck!

Sarah

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