**Socializing and Handling**

* I want your puppy to get used to you touching their toes, tail, nose, mouth, paws and ears. You can do this when he is resting (NOT when he is playful) or you can also mark the behavior you are looking for. For example; Touch the toes quickly, mark and reward. Then you can touch the paws a bit longer, mark and reward.
* Whenever you are watching television, practice this type of touching. Practice at least 5 minutes a day.
* Visit pet stores, groomers and vet clinics. Have the staff take your puppy and give him treats. If your puppy is nervous, stay with him. It’s hard to be your puppy’s advocate if you’re not with him! This way your puppy will begin to think this is a fun place to be instead of a scary place to be. If I got ice cream and cookies every time I went to the doctors, I would be excited to go! These places are not only full of weird smells but the floors are slippery and shiny and people have weird uniforms on. Keep in mind that if you are concerned about a situation, your puppy will pick up on this. Be excited and happy about going to these places.
* Start brushing your puppy’s teeth. This is not only good for your puppy to learn that it’s ok for you to be in their mouth but in the future it will save on dental bills.
* Pet your puppy’s chest slowly. This will relax them. If you pet too quickly it will over excite them and may even increase the dreaded humping behavior.

**Jumping**

* This is a normal behavior and due to excitement and social interaction that is rewarded by humans**.**
* If they have learned their default behavior, you should not being seeing much if any of this behavior.
* This is an attention seeking behavior. They want you to pet them, play with them or they are just excited. If this behavior is rewarded, it will increase in frequency.
* When your puppy is jumping at you simply cross your arms and turn your back. Don’t talk to them or look at them.
* If you are using a clicker, click when your puppy has all 4 paws on the ground and give a reward. Repeat. If your puppy jumps at you again, cross your arms and turn your back.
* Ignore your puppy when it is jumping and reward them for when they are asking nicely for attention (such as sit or your default behavior). This is teaching them that there are better ways to get what they would like.
* Pinching toes, kneeing in chest and yelling at your puppy is all a form of attention. Your puppy will take what he can get.
* Jumping can also be a sign of anxiety. Does your puppy look stressed or fearful? Can you take a break and leave the environment?
* It’s important to note that if you do NOT reward the good behavior, your puppy will become frustrated, which is usually expressed in unruly behavior.

This handout is provided by Nicole from the MN Valley Pet Hospital