



Excitement and Submissive Urination

Submissive and excitement urination are separate from typical housetraining issues and dogs who display these behaviors simply cannot contain themselves. However, with some patience and understanding your dog can learn to stop.

Submissive urination

Submissive urination may occur when someone is greeting the dog (with direct eye contact, forward posture and leaning over the dog) or punishing him, either verbally or physically. It's most common among dogs who are shy/fearful toward people, have historically been scolded or punished after the fact, are sensitive to punishment, and have frequent fearful/submissive postures (flattened ears and tail, lowered body posture, rolling on back).

Excitement urination

Excitement urination occurs most often during greetings and playtime and isn't accompanied by submissive postures as in submissive urination.

Excitement urination is common in young dogs and puppies who don't yet have complete control over their bladders. It usually resolves on its own as a dog matures. In some cases, however, the problem can persist if the dog is frequently punished or if the dog's behavior is inadvertently reinforced—such as by petting or talking to your dog in a soothing or coddling tone of voice after he urinates when excited.

Signs of excitement urination

- He urinates when excited, such as during greetings or playtime.
- He urinates when excited and is less than 1 year old.

Recommendations for halting submissive and excitement urination

- Take your dog to the veterinarian to rule out medical reasons for the behavior.
- Don't punish or scold him for urinating due to this behavior.
- Keep greetings low-key. No high-pitched baby talk, hand-clapping, hugging, or rough-housing.
- When he's excited, ignore him until he's calm.
- For shy dogs, lower your body and greet them from the side, rather than bending forward in a head-on posture. This will appear less threatening and less likely to elicit submissive wetting.

- Take frequent walks to make sure your dog's bladder stays as empty as possible.
- Make sure your dog gets plenty of vigorous exercise.
- To avoid accidents, play outdoors until the problem is resolved.

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About Napa Humane

The Humane Society of Napa County and SPCA, known as Napa Humane, is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1973. Recognizing that companion animals are an important part of healthy communities, we've grown to consider Napa Humane a community service organization. Our programs and services are designed to address the needs of animals – and also to provide support, education, and assistance for all the people who care for and about them.

Napa Humane is a private and independent organization that is supported by private donations by individuals and businesses, bequests, and fees for service. We receive no government funding, tax dollars or funding from national animal welfare organizations.

Our Mission

To promote the welfare of companion animals through protection, advocacy, education, and by example.