



AVERSIVES FOR DOGS

DETERMINING AN EFFECTIVE AVERSIVE reaction for your dog is definitely a case of trial and error; as individual preferences will vary with each dog. This is often the best method to discourage a dog from a particular action or place, but will seldom work effectively without offering an alternative that is both convenient and rewarding.

TEXTURE

To protect furniture or floor finishes from sticky substances, attach them to a piece of foil or heavy plastic and secure with weights or light tape. You may need to weight the “material” firmly for it to stay in place. These are more effective for puppies, small dogs and low-energy dogs.

Indoors

- Shelf paper (sticky side up)
- Double-sided carpet tape

Outdoors

- Irregular/sharp rocks, firmly set into dirt
- Chicken wire firmly set into dirt (sharp edges rolled under)

Both

- Heavy plastic carpet runner (pointed side up)

TASTE

Some of these substances may damage furniture or floor finishes, so be sure to test them in hidden locations before widespread use. Except for hot sauce and cayenne pepper, these substances should be safe to apply to most people’s skin; however, some individuals may be sensitive to them.

- Bitter Apple/similar sprays/gels marketed specifically for taste aversion.
- Insect repellents, especially those containing citronella or citrus odors. (Check for toxicity, if safe for children, it's usually safe for pets).
- Some hot sauces
- Cayenne Pepper
- Some muscle rubs
- Citric odors (colognes, concentrated juices or fresh peels)
- Aloe Gel

SURPRISE!

Remote Controlled Aversives

- Motion detector that reacts with a startling sound
- Snappy Trainer (upside-down mouse trap taped under paper to avoid contact)
- Aluminum pie plate containing water, beans or pebbles – preferably balanced precariously.
- Scat mat (very slight electrical shock)

Human Controlled Aversives

Use these to get your dog's attention, and thereby offer an appropriate alternative.

- Spray bottle or squirt gun filled with water or a combination of water & vinegar. (Avoid water guns that have a force able water spray)
- Loud air horn
- Whistle
- Shaker can (soda can containing nails, pennies, beans, etc) securely taped shut.

WARNING: For fearful dogs, try everything else before trying surprise techniques, especially those using noises!