

# Puppy Excitement and Submissive Urination

## BEHAVIOR SERIES



### Excitement urination

During times of high excitement, such as when you return home or company arrives at your door, your puppy may dribble or squirt small amounts of urine. This behavior is more likely to occur in younger dogs, many of which outgrow the behavior.

#### Things to do:

- Reduce the excitement level upon entering the home.
  - All humans should stay calm
    - In some cases the best strategy is to ignore your pet until she or he is calm
  - Teach alternative, calm behaviors for your pet to do when they start becoming excited:
    - Sit
    - Stay
    - Down
- Reward calm and relaxed behavior

#### Things to avoid:

- Emotional/excited greetings
- Physically or verbally reprimanding your pet for excitement urination



### Submissive urination

In an attempt to communicate a submissive status to a person or animal, your puppy may squat and urinate during specific interactions. Submissive urination often occurs when people reach toward the puppy, as occurs during greetings, or when someone is reprimanding the puppy. Submissive urination is most common in young, female dogs and many will outgrow the behavior.

#### Things to do:

- Appear less threatening when approaching your pet.
  - Kneel down
  - Turn your body away from pet
  - Let pet approach you
  - Stroke under chin/chest
  - Avert your gaze
- Engage your pet in another activity, such as chasing a ball, when submissive urination is likely to occur.

#### Things to avoid:

- Punishment
- Yelling or stern voice
- Petting on the top of the head
- Leaning/reaching over your pet
- Direct eye contact

**In very severe or persistent cases, drug therapy may be considered. Consult your Banfield medical team.**