

Inappropriate play with other dogs or humans - for those dogs who like to body slam, hump, etc.

By Dee Ganley

Within a couple weeks of **time-outs**, You will see a marked improvement in the dogs behavior. I find that using a clicker or word marker and marking any appropriate play also helps.

This means a lot of clicking for EVERYTHING that is "good play" - looking at another dog, sniffing another dog, walking away from another dog, ignoring another dog, licking his lips near another dog, yawning at the other dog, etc.

If you want to make the time-outs carry more weight (up to you, as you can assess whether the playtime is absolutely necessary to keep him happy and sufficiently tired or whether you can get by with some shortened play sessions for a few weeks with no damage done), you can adopt a "three strikes and you're out" policy with him as well. The first two body slams towards people earn him time-outs (with the no-reward mark to let him know what he did that got him in trouble), and the third time he is calmly placed back in his crate or away from the other dogs and playtime is over. The big thing to remember is that the **time-outs** and being placed back away from the other dogs ***have to be carried out neutrally by the person using*** the punisher - *very neutral tone of voice*, no talking other than the NRM, ignore any temper tantrums of his upon being placed back in the kennel (other than to not let him out during a tantrum).

You may at first see a bit of an extinction burst (an increase in body slamming), especially right after time-outs. With my dog, it was almost like he needed to play extra hard right after time-outs because he'd been bottling up his energy during that time. Keep up with the time-outs and clicking appropriate behavior, because the extinction burst just means you're almost there. He's got oodles of appropriate choices he could make, and only one choice that will get him in trouble (body-slaming). He'll figure it out.

Or Try this:

One very effective technique we have found successful is time outs.

We use a large crate within a room. Though a crate could be put in an out door pen as well. I have seen it used successfully with mouthing, jumping roughly, humping or tug on another dogs collar.

It is very simple.

Dog jumps, uses mouth or body slams you mark it with a NRM or sound. The same way you would mark a wanted behavior by a click or good dog. Except you say "Too Bad" or oops!! what ever word or sound that feels comfortable with your staff and volunteers to mark the unwanted behavior, as it is happening.

Immediately and with out drama, put the dog in the crate and ignore. You could even leave the room.

The time out doesn't need to be long, a couple of minutes usually will mark a difference between the previous fun and the now confinement. It of course will be need to be consistent and repeated several times until the dog starts to make the connection between body slamming the immediate end of fun.