

# Aversives for Dogs

Call the 'Adopters Only' Hotline at 942-7297 or visit [www.hawaiianhumane.org](http://www.hawaiianhumane.org) for more advice & Information.



Determining an effective aversive for your dog is a matter of trial-and-error. What is an aversive to one dog may not be a deterrent to another. A loud noise may be enough to interrupt some dogs from what they are doing, while others will be unaffected. A squirt of water works for some dogs but others will enjoy the spray!

Using an aversive is often the best method to discourage a dog from an unwanted behavior, but may not work if there is no convenient or rewarding alternative. For example, if you are teaching your dog not to jump on the couch, show him an alternative place to rest – his own bedding, a towel, etc. - and reward him when he goes to that spot.

## Recommended Texture Aversives

### Indoors

Use the following to prevent jumping or walking on furniture or counters.

- ❖ Shelf paper (sticky side up)
- ❖ Double-sided tape.
- ❖ For small breeds, the Sticky Paws product may be effective ([www.stickypaws.com](http://www.stickypaws.com)).

### Outdoors

Use the following to prevent digging.

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

### Both

Heavy plastic carpet runner (pointed side up) You may need to weight or tape "material." Protect furniture or floor finish from sticky substances by attaching them to a piece of foil or heavy plastic. Secure that with weights or light tape.

## Recommended Taste Aversives

Some of these substances may damage furniture or floor finishes, so test them in a hidden location before wide-spread use. Most of the following substances should be safe to apply to human skin.

Some individuals may be sensitive to them. Hot sauces and cayenne pepper should not be used on your skin.

- ❖ Bitter Apple or similar sprays and gels sold in pet stores, specifically for taste aversion.
- ❖ Insect repellents, especially those containing citronella or citrus odors (check for toxicity: if it's safe for young children, it's generally safe for pets)
- ❖ Some hot sauces
- ❖ Cayenne pepper
- ❖ Some muscle rubs
- ❖ Citric odors (colognes, concentrated juices or fresh peels)
- ❖ Aloe gel

## Recommended Surprise Aversives

### Remote Controlled

- ❖ Motion detector with a startling sound or a spraying device
- ❖ Snappy Trainer®. This device is an upside-down mousetrap securely wrapped and taped in paper to avoid direct contact.
- ❖ Aluminum pie plate containing water, beans or pebbles – precariously balanced
- ❖ Scat Mat (very mild electrical shock)

### Human Controlled

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

- ❖ Shaker can (soda can containing a few pennies -- securely taped shut)
- ❖ Whistle
- ❖ Spray bottle or squirt gun filled with water or water with a little vinegar added (NOTE: avoid the super-duper water guns with forceful sprays)
- ❖ Loud air horn

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

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