

ORANGE VILLA
VETERINARY HOSPITAL
BOARDING & GROOMING
714 - 637 - 3660

Dr. Richard E. Dahlem :
drdahlem@orangevillavet.com
Dr. Jeffrey Horn :
drhorn@orangevillavet.com
Dr. Sage, D.V.M.:
drsage@orangevillavet.com

This article and many others can be found at: www.orangevillavet.com

buyers so that you can find the best homes for all of the puppies? If you are not able to find good homes for the puppies early on are you willing to keep them for as long as it takes to find appropriate homes? If at anytime one or more of the adoptive families are not able to keep and care for one or more of your puppies are you willing to take them back and provide a home for them? (Consider where the puppies might end up if you are unwilling to provide this service.)

After you have considered all of these aspects and you are still interested in breeding, contact your veterinarian. He/she is your best resource for getting started and preparing you for a successful experience. Do your best to educate yourself about your breed and prepare yourself for any contingency. Breeding can be a very rewarding enterprise when done for the love of the dogs and the breed.

Mounting

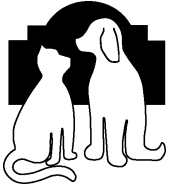
Mounting behavior in dogs can be very embarrassing for the dog's owner, but for the dog it is perfectly normal. For dogs mounting behavior is not always sexual; often it is a form of communication between dogs, a way to assert authority or dominance, and even a way to get attention from their owners or other humans. The other thing not to forget about this behavior is that it may be a pleasurable experience for the dog.

While intact male dogs are the most likely to display mounting behavior, neutered male dogs and even females, spayed or unspayed, may also enjoy this activity. Neutering may help reduce the incidence of mounting in 50-80% of dogs, but only completely resolve the issue in about 25%. In some dogs this behavior stops quite soon after being neutered and in some dogs it takes several months to fade away.

If your adult dog has recently begun mounting it may be due to a medical problem, or something happening in his/her environment. Consider if there has been any changes in the household: marriage, divorce, new addition (children or pets), visitors, arguments, relocating, or anything else that could be stressful to the dog. Medical problems could be related to the urinary tract, the parts of the reproductive tract remaining, or one of the other hormones producing glands in the body.

Assuming that there is not an environmental trigger or medical problem that could be treated directly, here are other ways to minimize mounting behavior:

- 1:** Increase the amount of aerobic exercise the dog gets.
- 2:** Introducing a regular schedule of training and play.
- 3:** If people are being mounted, ignore the dog while making the behavior impossible to express i.e. stand up if sitting or walk away if standing.
- 4:** The use of a head halter for better physical control. If a long lead is attached to the head halter it is possible to disengage the dog from whatever is being mounted without touching him/her and thereby giving him/her attention.
- 5:** Interrupting the behavior from a distance i.e. with a remote citronella spray, collar, squirt gun, or noisemaker.



ORANGE VILLA
VETERINARY HOSPITAL
BOARDING & GROOMING
714 - 637 - 3660

Dr. Richard E. Dahlem :
drdahlem@orangevillavet.com
Dr. Jeffrey Horn :
drhorn@orangevillavet.com
Dr. Sage, D.V.M.:
drsage@orangevillavet.com

This article and many others can be found at: www.orangevillavet.com

- 6:** If the mounting occurs at predictable times, distracting the dog from this behavior with a toy, playtime with the owner, or responding to a command. Sometimes special food stuffed toys like Kongs or Buster Cubes work well for longer periods of distraction.
- 7:** Boobytrapping the objects that may be mounted to deter their use.
- 8:** Pay a lot of attention to the dog when he/she is not mounting
- 9:** Provide your dog with a stuffed animal or special blanket that it is allowed to mount.

Remember that mounting is a normal behavior for dogs; some puppies play mount as early as 3-5 weeks of age. If you are seeking to eliminate mounting, don't accidentally reinforce the behavior by paying more attention to the dog when he/she is mounting. Neutering may help, although it may take several months to see a reduction in mounting after the neuter. If you are keeping your dog intact in the hopes of breeding him, don't scold him for mounting as this may affect his ability to breed later on.