



# **SACRAMENTO SPCA**

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## **Aversives For Dogs**

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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**

You may need to weight the "material" firmly or tape it in order for it to stay put. To protect furniture or floor finish from sticky substances, attach them to a piece of foil or heavy plastic and secure that with weights or light tape. These are more effective for puppies, small dogs and low-energy dogs than for those who won't let a little obstacle stand in their way.

#### **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 a hidden location before wide-spread 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 or similar sprays and gels marketed 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

## **Surprise!**

### **Remote Controlled Aversives:**

- ◆ Motion detector that reacts with a startling sound
- ◆ Snappy Trainer (upside-down mouse trap that's securely 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 and vinegar (NOTE: avoid the super-duper water guns that have a very forceful spray)
- ◆ Loud air horn
- ◆ Whistle
- ◆ Shaker can (soda can containing nails, pennies, beans or pebbles -- securely taped shut)

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