

Submissive Peeing

By Ricardo Carbjal

The condition that makes puppies tinkle when excited has a couple of names: Submissive peeing or Excited peeing. In either case it is very common in young dogs because the muscles that control continence are not developed and they don't know that it is happening. They will do it when they feel submission to the "alpha person" in the family or when they are overly excited to greet them etc.

Since it is an involuntary problem it is not regarded as a "habit" and it is not a behavior that can be trained out of or taught in any way to avoid.

What can be done is to minimize the conditions that lead to the behavior:

- 1) when you enter the home and the pups looks excited, ignore, do not talk to him, don't use high pitch voices, lean over or touch him. Act as if he doesn't exist.
- 2) after he is calm and the initial moment is over you can calmly reach and pet without making a fuss. He will not be likely to tinkle after the initial excitement is over.
- 3) NEVER scold, get upset, raise the voice, or in any way punish the behavior. Since there is a degree of submission that is present for the bladder to react, any type of negative feedback will create a stronger submission response and it will take longer to resolve.
- 4) This will go away in time, especially if the above is followed. When the continence gets stronger it will stop if it is managed properly.