

In Home dog conflicts



Learning Shouldn't Hurt

Sarah Anderson, CPDT

(775) 219-4121

Info@dogz-inc.com

www.dogz-inc.com

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Conflicts in a multi-dog household

Many people have unrealistic expectations about dog-dog social behavior. They expect dogs to get along with all other dogs, but people can't even get along with all other people. People may often disagree, argue, and sometimes resort to pushing and shoving, very few people inflict severe injuries. Dogs are very similar.

Know Common Triggers:

When it comes to fighting in the same household, there are common characteristics:

The dogs are the same sex.

The dogs fight only in the owner's presence.

The dogs are adult dogs.

The dogs are overstimulated

- The dogs are overexcited, unable to calm down and redirect to the other dog
- The dogs are stressed: too much has happened with too little time to recover making tempers short
- The dogs are controlling access to resources or space

Resources:		Space:	
Chewies	Food/Food bowls	Sleeping areas	Hallways
Toys	Attention	Furniture	Doorways

Know dog body language:

This is a **VERY** simplified and basic description of dog body language. **PLEASE** contact a trainer at www.ccpdt.com for a more detailed seminar prior to identifying dog behavior

Body Language	What to do
<p>Good, Relaxed Body Language</p> <p>Loose wagging tail Open Smiling Mouth Bouncy Body Soft, inviting eyes</p>	<p>PRAISE! This relaxed, happy dog is what we loo. Let your dog know they're doing the right thing.</p>
<p>Concerning Body language to be aware of</p> <p>Hard, targeted, stare Mouth closed, Lips tight Tail held up and stiff Jerky or slow movement Weight forward Hackles raised Dominance posturing, such as placing head over back or back of neck, mounting.</p>	<p>Distract the dog from what it is staring at. Redirect with an obedience command – "sit" Call the dog away in a happy voice Reward the dog with treats and praise when around the other dog Find a positive reinforcement trainer!</p>
<p>Signs of stress, fear or discomfort:</p> <p>See white around the eyes Tail tucked to butt Ears tight back to the head Body low to ground Turning head away Lifting up front paw Lip Licking Weight leaning away</p>	<p>Praise the dog when it acts "brave" (looks at, moves towards or sniffs the other dog) Don't allow the other dogs to crowd or overwhelm him Find a trainer to teach the dog confidence</p>

How long does this take?

It takes about 4-8 weeks for a new dog to settle into your home. But it can take to 6-9 months for the dogs to be comfortable with each other. **BE PATIENT!** Your home is at least the 3rd home your new dog has known (original home, shelter or foster and your home).

BE PATIENT AND GIVE THEM TIME TO ADJUST!

What to try at home:

1) **Remove all items of possession**
See "resources"

2) **Don't allow dogs to control space**

Call them away from sensitive areas and prevent them from blocking the other dog. Remove them from entryways where they can become over excited.

3) **No Free Lunch:**

This requires the dogs to respond to a command ("sit", "down", "come" etc.) before they get any resource that they want (their meal, a treat, petting, attention and so forth).

4) **"Support" one of the dogs,**

The chosen dog gets everything first (food, treats, attention etc.). The problem is which dog to select:

- Choose the dog that is larger, stronger, healthier, more active and so forth.
- Choose the dog that was in the household first, and has lived with the owner the longest.

5) **Be consistent.**

It takes approximately 5 weeks to see noticeable improvement.

We know its scary!

Fights sound super scary, but the important part is if any damage was inflicted. We call this the "fight to bite" ratio. No damage means it was an argument – not a fight. This doesn't mean that fights should be ignored, or that we can simply assume that things will "work themselves out." But it does mean that the dogs aren't trying to kill each other. Lots of fights without injuries means the dogs are restricting their bites