



Behavior Help Leash Aggression

Helping Leash Aggressive Dogs

Are you struggling to enjoy your walks with your dog because they lunge, growl and bark at passing dogs? This is common problem that can be improved upon when you understand why it happens and you have the proper tools you need to manage it.

Dogs who display aggressive behavior when on leash may do so for a variety of reasons:

- 🐾 They need more socialization with friendly dogs.
- 🐾 They were attacked by a dog while on leash
- 🐾 They want to play with other dogs and are frustrated by being restricted by the leash

Being constrained by the leash can complicate a normal dog greeting pattern. There are a series of steps you can work on to help your dog to relax more on his walks. Leash reactivity is a behavior problem that will take time, patience, management and training.

Do's:

- 🐾 Teach your dog basic exercises like "watch" so you can reinforce him for watching you and not the other dog
- 🐾 Learn how to walk your dog on a loose leash. A tight leash increases the stress level of your dog. (Attend a training class or workshop)
- 🐾 Walk your dog on a Gentle Leader Head Collar or SENSE-ation No Pull Dog Harness
- 🐾 Carry lots of high value treats like cheese or hot dogs
- 🐾 Walk your dog in a large park where he will only see dogs at a distance. Keep your dog at a distance from other dogs so that he does not react
- 🐾 Reward your dog with treats for NOT reacting to other dogs
- 🐾 Avoid dog parks; walk where you can quickly move away from other dogs

Don'ts:

- 🐾 Do not walk your dog on a choke or prong collar
- 🐾 Do not walk your dog past dogs behind fences
- 🐾 Do not punish. No yelling or jerking on leash
- 🐾 Do not walk on narrow walkways or ditch paths where you cannot create distance
- 🐾 Do not tense up on the leash

Working on basic obedience will teach your dog that watching you while walking on a loose leash will earn him lots of yummy treats. He will learn that when he sees another dog looking at you while walking away from the other dog will keep those treats coming. Set your dog up for success by feeding him treats while he is calm.

Resources:

Feisty Fido, Patricia McConnell and Karen B. London

Help for Your Fearful Dog, Nicole Wilde

Reactive Rover, Kim Moeller