



Making life less stressful for you and your dog

THE DOG DORK DIGEST

NEWS FROM POSITIVE INTERACTIONS DOG BEHAVIOR AND TRAINING

<https://www.everydogaustralia.org/>

<https://yourdogfriend.org/>

Two non-profit organizations committed to providing accessible dog training and behavior resources to their communities. Check out their extensive and informative **free** webinars.

✧ *Highlights* ✧

HOW TO SAFELY BREAK UP A DOG FIGHT

When dogs get into a fight, it can be a frightening and traumatizing experience for both the dogs and humans involved. But how can you tell if the dogs are playing or about to engage in a fight that could lead to injuries? Knowing when to interrupt play that is escalating towards a fight is the best way to avoid injuries and trauma to you and your dog. But, acquiring the skills to recognize dog body language and differentiate between appropriate play, inappropriate play, and a true dog fight is something that takes a significant time to develop. Pay close attention for the following signals (this is not an inclusive list) the dogs may be displaying:

High, stiff tail wags

Lips pulled forward into a pucker vs wide, open mouth

Tight, controlled movement vs loose and bouncy play motion

Body weight on front legs with hard, staring eyes

Lunging towards the head or neck of other dog

One dog that's dominating play (always on top, always chasing, etc)

Play fighting is typically loud, bouncy, and exaggerated with the dogs taking turns with chasing and jumping on top. Rough play can tip over into a fight.

Keep a close eye on the play so that you can call your dog away and give him a break before things escalate.

Play it safe and avoid dog parks and don't allow your dog to greet another dog on leash. Choose safer alternatives by inviting dogs you know get along with your dog to your fenced in yard or a near-by Sniffspot.

If and when a fight happens, take a deep breath, and do not put yourself between fighting dogs! Some of the worst dog bites to humans have occurred when people have tried to break up a dog fight. Putting your hands or other body parts between fighting dogs is dangerous. The stressed dogs will often redirect their bite onto an intervening hand or leg, leading to some serious injuries. Instead, quickly review your available options, and choose one, or several, that are most likely to work.

1. Spray. Blast the dogs with water from a nearby powerful hose. A fire extinguisher can be an effective fight-stopping tool. Citronella spray which most dogs aren't crazy about, can be sprayed directly at the dog's face to deter their fighting and safely separate them.

2. Sound. Depending on the intensity of the dog's fight, a loud yell might be enough to stop it. In addition, try dropping one (or several) metal pans on the floor or banging metal pots or cookie sheets together. Triggering a smoke detector alarm with a lit match or lighter might work. A marine air horn can be effective since they are very loud.

3. Object. Grab a blanket, towel, or jacket to toss over each dog. This can muffle extraneous sounds, reducing the dogs' arousal. The blankets also can provide an extra protective barrier between your skin and the dog's teeth when you try to separate them.

There is no guarantee these methods will work. If you have multiple dogs in your home that fight, keep them apart and contact a qualified professional dog behavior consultant/trainer to help the dogs learn to get along with each other.

<https://positiveinteractionsdogbehaviorandtraining.com>

A WORLD OF DOGS

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Tenacious Tripaws

A common reaction when people see a three-legged dog is sympathy (“Poor thing...”), or admiration. (“What a brave pooch!”). Both are understandable. For humans, amputation can involve complex psychological and emotional issues. For dogs? Less so. Dogs have no notion of body image, no mental image of what they are supposed to look like. What they care about falls into two major categories: One, whether they are in pain. Two, whether they can do things they love: go for walks, play with toys, eat yummy food, get belly rubs, snuggle on the couch, etc. A pain-free, well-fed dog with a loving home doesn’t give a hoot that her daily walk happens in the characteristic tripaw hop instead of a four-legged lope.

Amputee dogs, often called tripaws or tripods, generally lose a limb either as a result of an accident or as a means to prevent cancer from spreading. In rarer cases, a congenital deformity makes the leg nonfunctional. The number one cause is canine osteosarcoma, or bone cancer, an aggressive disease that can rapidly spread into other parts of the dog’s body. Treatment for this kind of tumor is limited to surgical removal and chemotherapy, and the prognosis is often dire. Radical as it may sound, amputation is usually the best option. Many tripaws go on to live normal life spans after surgery. Because dogs carry about 60 percent of their weight up front, losing a hind leg is easier than losing a front leg. But front-leg amputees adapt too. Even dogs with moderate arthritis can do well on three legs.

Guardians of amputee dogs can also do a lot to make the transition easier. A tripaw-friendly home has non-slip surfacing on stairs and floors, as well as ramps for climbing up on sofas and into cars. A harness with a handle the human can hold can help dogs navigate difficult stairs and uneven ground.

Walking on softer surfaces, such as grass, while out and about can put less stress on remaining joints. And a whole range of fitness gear has been developed to help tripaws strengthen their remaining limbs and improve their balance. For the rest of us, encountering tripaws out and about? Love them up like nothing has changed, because, to them, nothing that truly matters has.



Safe Food Storage for Dogs

Food-borne illnesses can affect dogs as severely as humans. Here are some tips for keeping your dog—and his dinner—safe:

Use sealed containers. Clean, sealed containers are essential. Store dry food in a cool, dry place and wet food in the refrigerator. Wash and dry containers between uses.

Wash your hands. Before you prepare your dog’s food, wash your hands in warm soapy water, just as you would before handling food for your family.

Wash his bowls. Would you reuse your plate tomorrow without giving it a wash? Probably not and neither should your dog. Wash his food and water bowls daily.

Mind the expiration date. Don’t risk feeding your dog expired food. Even if it’s safe, the nutritional value is likely to be greatly diminished.

Christopher Morley

"Opening up your life to a dog who needs a home is one of the most fulfilling things you can do."



OUR SERVICES



All services use reward-based training techniques that are supported by up-to-date scientific research. After agreeing upon what your goals are for you and your dog, a behavior change plan will be developed and recommended based on how best to work to achieve those goals.

AGGRESSION AND REACTIVITY – Behavior modification and training for: intra-household dog aggression; human directed aggression; resource guarding; aggression when handled for grooming, vet exams, putting on harness, collar, or leash; leash reactivity directed at humans, dogs, kids, cars, bike.

BASIC MANNERS TRAINING – Training for adolescent and adult dogs addressing common problem behaviors such as jumping up, nipping, chewing, over-arousal, in addition to teaching good manners: sit, down, wait, come when called, trade, leash walking skills, and others.

PUPPY TRAINING – Teaching your puppy skills for: house training; crate training; mouthing and chewing; jumping up; stealing objects. Introduction of important foundational skills you can implement with your pup now and build from as they mature: learning how to relax; appropriate socialization to novel experiences. Introduction of basic manners: sit, down, wait, come when called, trade, and others.



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