

Beggin to Behave Dog Training

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Aggression Between Dogs in the Same Household

Common Triggers:

Paying attention to one dog rather than the other
Simple excitement (arousal)
Conflict over food or toys
Separation anxiety, or fearfulness, with one of the dogs
Lack of exercise
Medical issues (pain/orthopedic, thyroid, adrenal, allergies, etc.)

Look for:

Stiff posture
Lowered head
Raised hackles
Hard stare
Flicking the tongue
Low growling

How you can help:

Nothing in life is free - This requires the dog responds to 'sit' or 'down' or 'come' before they get any valued resource such as attention, treats, dinner, etc. The 'top' dog in the hierarchy dog gets these items first.

Exercise - Focusing their energy on playing, walking, tug rather than on each other.

Hierarchy change? As a senior dog ages, a younger dog may be vying for a higher position in the household. Walk them together if you can. They can enjoy time together without any pressure.

Introduce the dogs again - Keep them apart except for brief times together. Baby gate them into different rooms. Give them time apart. Gradually reintroduce them for longer and longer periods of time.

Talk to your vet - Is there an undiagnosed medical problem? Pain, discomfort and other issues can lead to more aggressive behavior.

Stress and anxiety - Look for thing that might cause stress like a change in the household, routine, or family.

Redirection from arousal - The doorbell ringing, excitement from the mailman, can cause extreme excitement and venting on another dog to release it.

Adaptil - Containing D.A.P. (Dog Appeasing Pheromone), Relax My Dog music found on YouTube.

Start taking notes - Where did the fight happen? What time of day? What resources were present? Who was there? Do they only fight in your presence?

If you notice tension - Separate the dogs with a baby gate or use a kennel. Especially during 'exciting' times like dinner or with treats. Redirect one, or both, dogs. Loudly say 'Oh, look!', whistle, or click your tongue to distract them.

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