

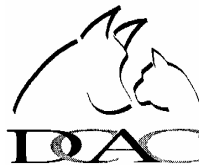
# Dog to Dog Aggression



**Dog To Dog Aggression  
Is Due To Poor  
Socialization.**

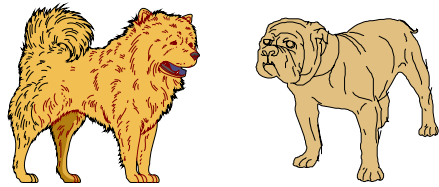
**You Can Help Your Dog  
Overcome This  
Problem.**

**Professional Help May  
Be Needed**



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If you are having problems with your dog being aggressive towards other dogs, it is most likely due to poor socialization. Many dogs immediately act aggressively towards other dogs because they feel afraid or threatened. They may also be trying to protect *you* or other family members from strange dogs. Like people, sometimes two dogs decide they don't like each other and just don't hit it off. They may both be very dominant and challenge each other by posturing. When no one submits, they may begin to fight.

If your dog is consistently aggressive towards other dogs, you *should* work to socialize him. A dog-aggressive dog is a threat to other dogs. It makes taking him to the vet, park, pet

supply store and for walks in the neighborhood difficult. It's

important to gradually introduce your dog to others, creating a positive experience each time to help your dog overcome this problem.

Typically, when two dogs meet on neutral territory, they will greet each other briefly, sniff each other and size each other up. They may play together a bit. Then they tend to ignore each other. Two dogs that meet on neutral territory have little reason to interact or form a relationship. This is normal behavior between strangers and your ultimate goal with a dog-aggressive dog.

Obedience classes, pet supply stores, parks, forest preserves and the homes of other dog owners are great places to get your dog used to being with other dogs. Take her to a dog-frequented park

or forest preserve for walks, games and obedience work (keep her leashed). Use lots of positive reinforcement (treats, praise, petting) to get her comfortable being around

other dogs at a distance. Use a collar correction for any barking, growling, lunging or aggressive behavior. Praise the dog immediately after she stops. After a few of these sessions, slowly begin decreasing the distance between you and the other dogs. Correct any barking, growling or lunging and continue to praise and treat calm behavior. Finally, begin introducing your dog to other dogs face-to-face. You may need the assistance of a trainer or behaviorist to do this.

By following these simple procedures and continuing them throughout your dog's life, your dog can overcome his aggressive tendencies towards other dogs.