



**DOGGIE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY**  
**815-566-5893, [www.ddacademy.com](http://www.ddacademy.com)**

## **TREATING DOG TO DOG AGGRESSION IN THE HOME**

Cases of dog to dog aggression are never alike but here's a few simple guidelines to help with treating the causes of aggression and aid in getting the dogs that are in the same home to get along. These can be used along with a prescribed treatment plan but always follow the directions on that treatment plan first.

In the beginning, NEVER leave the dogs alone in the same room unsupervised even if they are wearing muzzles.

Do not buy the dog any squeaky or plush toys. These can sound and feel like certain animals and can encourage the prey drive in the dog and we are trying to minimize all aggression in the home. Opt for safe toys such as Kongs or Nylabones (Nylabones can be soaked in beef or chicken broth to make them more desirable).

Make sure to keep any toys picked up or in an area where the dogs cannot get them. They can be a source of possessive aggression between the dogs. They can be introduced later on and only equally between both dogs.

Eliminate any rough games or dominance games such as tug-of-war or wrestling.

Never physically punish either dog. Divert attention away onto something else or remove from the situation. Use the Obedience commands. Make the correct behavior more desirable.

Follow the LEADERSHIP EXERCISES. This will help establish you as the pack leader and dictate to the dogs that all animals are part of the pack. The rules apply to all the dogs in the house.

Remember any type of behavior, be it good or bad, that is given positive reinforcement will help to make that behavior permanent. An example of this is never to pet a dog that is being fearful or aggressive. Divert attention away from the negative situation onto something more positive and never make a big deal out of it. Always remember, when in doubt, walk the dogs away from each other and if you can't get their attention back on to you at all, cease training and try another time when everyone is calmer.

Walk and train both dogs together as much as possible with one member of the family with each dog. Never take your attention off either dog and work your training before they have their regular meal (at least 6-8 hours). This will make it easier to divert their attention with treats.

During training to establish a threshold between the two dogs. The threshold is the distance between the dogs just before either dog shows aggression towards the other but decides not to. Reward the dogs for offering the correct behavior when they pay attention to you and not the other dogs. Work some simple obedience commands as well to help keep the dog's attention on you.

When in doubt or if there are issues, increase the threshold to keep the dog's attention on who is doing the training. Vary this distance at each training session but gradually decrease the distance a little at a time and increase the reward for the dogs as they offer the correct behavior.

If the dog shows aggression towards the other animals at any point, move further away until the dog's attention is back on you and reward them but make sure to give them at least two obedience commands first.

Consistency is the key but with time and patience, the dog can create a positive association with the other dog and learn the correct behavior.

Always praise the dogs when they offer the correct behavior.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 815-566-5893.