



## CHARLIEBAR DOG TRAINING

### *Socialization Training*

#### KEY POINTS

1. You cannot force dogs to be social or be friends. You can only teach them to not attack other dogs.
2. Making a dog “social” has to do with repetition and creating artificial relationships. This is done through rewarding them when they interact appropriately and convincing them they won’t be attacked by other dogs.
3. There are four ways to bond dogs and help build trust:
  - Walking together [under control]
  - Sleeping near each other [under control]
  - Co-existing in the same space [under control]
  - Eating near each other [under control]

#### PRE-SOCIALIZATION GOALS

1. Ideally the dog knows “good”, “break!”, “uh-uh”, and “no” prior to socializing; otherwise you must teach it during the session
2. The more comfortable a dog is in a muzzle, the better
3. Always best to burn the dog’s energy before socializing
4. It helps if dogs are hungry/food-motivated
5. When working on one dog, always socialize with a calm and confident dog
6. You **must have general control** over the dog to be able to socialize the dog in a non-chaotic environment for best success
  - If you’re able to walk the dogs in a controlled manner, it will make each dog more comfortable

#### BEFORE YOU START

1. **Ensure you have the proper tools**
  - You will need muzzles, leashes and corrective devices
  - Don’t use prong collars when socializing because it is easier to transition to off/dropped leash with e-collar

## 2. Know what you're looking for

- Nose should be being used, not eyes
- Sniffing rear end is social
- Eyes are antisocial
- Fight will happen when dogs go face to face and lock eyes
- Always gauge the strike distance

## 3. Be aware of body language

- Realize that appropriate sniffing is the dog getting to know the other dog. Always mark as correct with "Break!", then reward with treat
- Whale-eyed, head lowering, tail curling are signs a dog will react. This is a good time to warn the dog
- Watch for behavior like humping and correct with "No!" immediately

## 4. Do not give the dogs a reason to fight

- No toys, no affection, be standoffish, give treats separately
- Even if there is no pure dog aggression, fights can happen over competition
- Always reward them separate, not face to face
- Be mindful of "bottlenecking" – when going from a big space through to a smaller space it could trigger a dog to react negatively

## SOCIALIZING PROCESS

1. Enter the situation under a *proper, controlled, calm environment*
2. Once you have a controlled environment, allow the dogs close enough to sniff each other from behind first
  - Turn first dog around and hold at neck and waist to prevent dog from being able to turn around on other dog
  - Allow other dog to sniff first dog's rear. Mark as correct with "Break!", then reward with treat
  - Rotate and repeat for the second dog to sniff first dog's rear. Mark as correct with "Break!", then reward with treat
3. Once the dogs have sniffed back and forth enough times, the tension will lessen between them

4. Only when tension has lessened can you start to try face to face contact outside the bite distance
  - When they make eye contact and faces swing by each other, say “break!” and mark as correct
  - In the event dog starts to growl, or threaten, that is the moment you warn the dog. Do **NOT** correct for warning/growling
  - When the dog goes to bite, that is when you correct the dog
    - If you stop it as soon as it starts, you will typically have no issues
  - If you notice one dog feeling overwhelmed, correct the dog who is overwhelming so the other dog doesn't have to
  - Anytime they begin to play, interrupt it quickly with “Break!”, then reward
  - Make all interactions short and sweet
5. Once the dogs are nonchalant and energy is relaxed around each other, then you can drop/remove leash
  - Continue monitoring, rewarding and correcting as noted above in step 4

## KEEP IN MIND

1. Muzzles should be used for at least one week before trialing the dogs without
2. Just because a dog is social with one dog or personality type doesn't mean it will get along with others. Sex, age, activity level, etc. play a big part in the dynamics
3. Distance is a big factor when working dogs together in the beginning – start farther apart and come together over time
4. The more dogs you socialize each dog with, the more generally social they will be