

*New things being poorly introduced during puppyhood and early trauma can both contribute to future development of fear reactions. Puppies also learn a great deal from the temperament of their parents..*

Early Experience

*An excited or aroused dog (even through rough play) will have more adrenaline and cortisol in their system which means difficulty in assessing situations, poorer mood control, and a greater chance of disproportionate reactions.*

Arousal Levels

*A dog is much more likely to react aggressively on lead, or in an enclosed space because it is more difficult to escape. Similarly, a dog's reaction can be very dependent of the behaviour of other dogs and people,. For example staring and invasions of personal space can both be seen as threatening and may lead to an aggressive response..*

Social Context

## The Puzzle of Aggression



Past learning

*If a dog has had a scary experience around a certain type of person, animal, movement, or object, then they are more likely to react to it in the future. If they are punished by their owner after reacting aggressively, that can increase their fear further, and lead to more aggression in the future.*

*Some foods can better support dogs with managing anxiety and aggressive responses. Additionally, if a dog is hungry, they are more likely to react aggressively due to low blood sugar.*

Nutrition

Neural Activity

*Serotonin is an essential brain chemical for regulating mood. Evidence suggests lack of sleep, constant anxiety, chronic stress, and aging can all lead to serotonin levels decreasing. Pain can also be a big cause of aggression in some dogs so a full health check is essential.*

# Understanding Aggression

<https://animalbehaviourkent.co.uk>

There rarely a single factor that causes a dog to respond aggressively. This means to reduce aggression we have to consider both environmental and internal factors to avoid an aggressive encounter and set up for success.

Above are some important things to consider.

