

PROBLEM DOGS



The most common cause of aggression by dogs towards their owners or family is that a lack of rules, boundaries and limitations are in place. As a result, the dog designs its own, leading to direct conflict with its human family. To stop conflicts or signs of aggression, you must be aware of the things your dog considers important and act accordingly. Some of the following tips may help your dog to behave better:

- 1) Rights and Privileges : limit access to important areas such as the bedroom or upstairs. Access to furniture must be when you allow it and not otherwise and your dog must get off when you ask.
- 2) Only give affection if your dog has worked for it by responding to a command, or you have chosen to call it over to give it a pat.



- 3) If you ask your dog to do something, ensure it happens. Be fair, and ask your dog reasonable tasks. For example, if your dog is chasing a rabbit, do not shout it to 'Come', as it's attention is elsewhere, which allows your dog to learn to ignore you.
- 4) Get your dog used to being handled. From a young age, look in your dogs ears and mouth and practice examining his paws. Always reward your dog for calm behaviour.
- 5) Games : Do not leave all toys out, unless you are going out and they are needed to alleviate boredom. Only throw toys that you have selected and only when you decide to do so. Do not throw toys your dog has collected and dropped at your feet. With chase games, always run away from your dog to get it to follow you, never the other way around. Only play tug of war if you are strong enough to win and you are able to ask your dog to leave the tug item without it trying to snatch it back. It is a good way to teach a dog not to bite if you stop the

game when the dog puts its mouth on you, and restart the game the minute the dog backs away from the tug toy.

- 6) Carry out obedience training. Reward quick responses and never punish mistakes. Always end the session with something your dog will get right.
- 7) Do not allow your dog to pull you on the lead. Be in a position to lead your dog or walk side by side. Do not allow your dog to push past you through doorways or jump out of the car before you.
- 8) Do not reward your dog with food unless it has worked for it. Special treats are difficult tasks your dog has completed at your request.
- 9) Neutering can help a dog's behaviour by reducing hormone levels, but normally you will need to implement all of these suggestions as well to make a significant difference.
- 10) If a situation arises where you have to confront a dominant dog (for example, applying ear drops), be prepared. Use a muzzle to help you control its head and stop it biting.
- 11) If you are not having success or seeing any noticeable changes in your pets behaviour, please seek specialist advice to avoid dangerous situations.

