

Multi Dog Households



The Basics

- All balanced multi-dog households have one reoccurring theme – **management**.
 - Your dogs look to you to place the boundaries and ground rules
 - Adolescent dogs will push these boundaries so it's important to be consistent in reinforcing the rules.
 - Don't count on the dogs to manage each other, there will be times where you need to step in and remind them of appropriate behavior.
 - It's okay for the dogs to have some different rules (ie, puppy can't get on the couch but the adult dog can) but know that this will require you to set clear expectations for the puppy



Inappropriate Behaviors

- Behaviors that we want to look out for from both our pet dogs and the puppies in training are:
 - Resource Guarding
 - Over-excited play
 - Mounting
 - Stealing (toys, bones, food)
 - Harassment



Appropriate play vs. Overstimulated Play

- **Appropriate Play**
- Fluid/Loose body movement
- Reciprocated
- Bouncy movement
- Sneezes
- Can be loud
- **Overstimulated play**
- Freezing
- Stiff body movements
- Low growls
- Fast, rigid movements
- Hackles raised
- Lack of bite inhibition
- Stalking



Appropriate Play Vs Overstimulated Play

- [Appropriate Play](#)
- [Inappropriate Play](#)
- Watch without sound first. What's the difference? Why is it appropriate or not appropriate?

When to Step In?

- When play isn't fun for one of the dogs anymore.
 - One dog is constantly retreating or having to defend itself.
 - One dog is perusing as other dog is trying to avoid
 - Persistent barking
 - Mounting
- Rude Behavior
 - Stealing the chew the other dog was chewing on
 - Pushing other dog out of the way for treats or attention
 - Bowling the other dog over to get out the door



How do I manage these situations?

- Have a strong recall for play.
 - Practice this with each dog separately
 - Then practice during lower stimulated play
 - Always reward for calling away from play and allow them to return to play
- Practice “place” or “kennel” to give breaks
 - Use when chews are present so each dog has their own space.
 - Use when training individually
 - Use for “time outs” or break times after overstimulation
- Be able to recognize any rude behavior and interrupt before it becomes an issue.



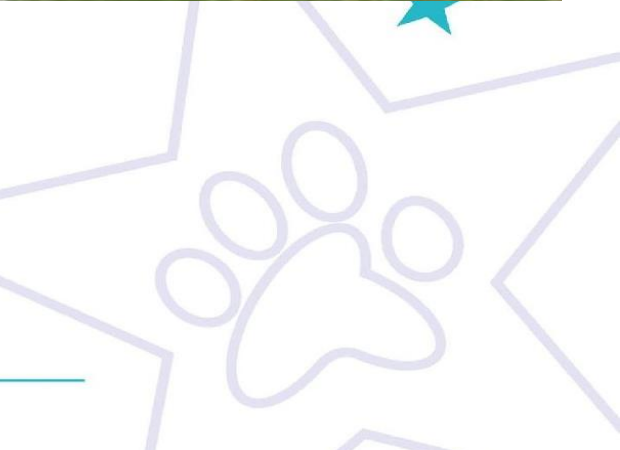
Dog Corrections

- It is okay to allow your adult dog to correct your puppy.
- Corrections are often warranted if your puppy is continuing rude behavior towards the adult dog.
- Corrections are also how puppies learn what appropriate play is.
- **An appropriate correction can be:**
 - Growling
 - Showing teeth
 - Snapping
 - Pinning
 - Usually very quick
- **Inappropriate corrections can be:**
 - Continuing to pursue after puppy backs away
 - Biting (different from mouthing)
 - Continuing to stand over puppy after correction has been made
 - If your dog does over correct, step in and separate the dogs for a couple minutes for a breather.

Are these appropriate?



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Dog Corrections

- [Adult Dog Corrects Rude Puppy](#)
- [Group Play](#)
- [Mom with Puppies](#)



Remember

- It's your responsibility to lay down the rules and maintain them.
- If you think what your puppy is doing is rude, your dog likely isn't enjoying it either.
- Play and corrections can be loud – watch the body language.
- A calm and controlled house = calm and controlled dogs.
- If you don't have another dog at home, allow your puppy to play with balanced adult dogs.
- Puppy on puppy play is going to need more guidance from you than adult on puppy play.
- If you see a reoccurring issue with how your dog interacts with other dogs, alert the Puppy Development Team.