



## Management for Dog to Dog Aggression in the Home

While waiting for your appointment, it is important to implement management strategies to prevent additional fights from occurring. After dogs have fought, they often need multiple days of complete separation to decompress.

### Barriers in the house:

- Use secure tall baby gates, crates, or closed doors to keep the two dogs separate for safety.
- It's best to have a "double layer" of separation in case one layer fails, especially while the dogs are unsupervised.
- If necessary, use a visual barrier, such as a blanket over a gate.

### Outside of the house:

- Allow the dogs individual time in the yard to relieve themselves.
- The dogs should be walked by different handlers, far enough away from each other that they cannot reach each other on leash.

### If A Fight Occurs:

- For safety, NEVER use your arms or legs to separate the dogs during a fight. Do not attempt to grab their collars.
- Try to interrupt the fight by making a loud noise (ex. air horn or whistle) or pouring water on the dogs.
- You can use a baby gate or a couch cushion to push between the two dogs to break them apart.

### Keep a log of incidents:

- This will be very helpful in identifying the triggers (what is happening right before) the aggressive incidents, and in coming up with a treatment plan during your appointment.

### Additional resources:

- [Managing Aggressive Dog-Aggressive Dogs in the Family](#)
- [Wise Mind Canine: "Dog Fight Behavior Triage" blog series](#)