A FEW COMING ATTRACTIONS FROM ASPCA PRO

www.aspcapro.org/webinars

• How to Get Better Results from Your Time, Money, and Energy (7/19)

• Using Research to Avoid Wasting Your Precious Resources (7/23)

• Reduce Length of Stay through Foster Care (8/08)

• Preventative Treatments for Foster Animals (8/15)

CEUs

This webinar is eligible for CEU credit if you are already a: Certified Behavior Consultant-Canine

Information will be emailed to you tomorrow
YOUR CHAT MODERATOR

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Director, Applied Research and Behavior
ASPCA

YOUR PRESENTER

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Director, Applied Research and Behavior
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Canine Communication Series: Dog Introductions

Agenda

- Dog greeting body language
- Introducing dogs
- Co-kenneling/play groups
- Play or fight?
- Warning signs
- Breaking up a dog fight
Dog Introductions

- New adoption or foster
- Friend’s dog
- Dog park
- Dog day care
- At a shelter

*note for shelters*

Body language: Play!

- Eyes squinty
- Body loose and wiggly
- Play bow
- Elbow bends
Body language: Play!

- Tail medium to low
- Long, sweeping wag
- Play biting
- Flea biting (grooming)

Paw lift, ears back

Photos: Cindy Bruckart
Multnomah Co. Humane Society
Body language: Play!

• Brief pauses in movement
• Bouncing body movements
• Open mouths
• “Self-handicapping”

Photo: Cindy Bruckart

Video: Self-handicapping

Video: Self-handicapping
Choice

• How do you tell if both dogs are playing?

The yellow dog is always chased in this relationship

Is it play or a fight?

• Reciprocal – taking turns
• Swordplay
• Body tension
• Most dog fights are non-damaging
Is it play or a fight?

Concerning Body Language

- Head or tail remain high
- Hackles
- Repeated mounting attempts
- Stiff body
- Hard eye
- Ears staying forward
Concerning Body Language

• Lip wrinkle
• Bared teeth
• Growl

Concerning Body Language

• Escape, avoidance, or hiding behaviors
Concerning Body Language

• One dog chasing other with no role reversal

What do you see?
Introducing new dogs

- Parallel walks
- Linear walks
- Using fence/ ex pen
- Frequent breaks
- Loose leashes

Parallel walks

- One handler per dog
- Start far away

Thanks to Elsa and Danielle at the Champaign County Humane Society for their time and the use of these cute shelter dogs!
Move closer

- Keep moving forward
- Keep leashes loose, if possible

Exploring

- Allow to sniff, mark things
- Keep leashes loose when interacting
Linear Walks

• Take turns following
• Gradually move closer

Linear walks

• Allow sniffs
• Move away
• Allow to sniff, urinate on things
Greeting through ex pen

- Great for foster homes!
- Can be used in kennels with smaller dogs

Fence greeting guidelines

- Potential barrier issues
- Use neutral fence
- Loose leash on new dog
- Keep greeter dog back
Greeting through fence

Greeting through fence
Co-kenneling guidelines

- Same sex or opposite?
- Age differences
- Play styles
- Size differences

Shelter play groups

- Check dog’s connection to humans
- Meet friendly dog through fence
- Bring dog in, drop leash when safe
- Interrupt every 30 seconds
- Start with a core group
- Add new dogs one at a time
- Play group size depends on group
Play group

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZ55DzZ6LXk&list=PLD5C2B43118B01AE5&index=1&feature=plpp_video

Size Differences

• Predatory caution
• Caution with play groups or co-housing if
  • More than a 50% size difference
  • Play style is inappropriate
Working with co-kenneled dogs

• Feeding options
  – Remove
  – Guillotine door
  – Crate
  – Tether (tie)
• Getting dogs out of kennel
• Ex pen “airlock”

Breaking up a dog fight

• Number of dogs/handlers
• Who is aggressor?
• Bully breed notes
• Other fight styles
• Where are dogs going?
• Have a plan
Breaking up a dog fight

- Keep leashes dragging
- Loud noises
- Water
- Citronella spray
- Towel or blanket
- Put something between them
- Pull dogs apart using their rear legs (not if one or both dogs are holding on)

What **not** to do:

- Grab collars
- Hit, kick or punch
- Put your hands near dog’s mouth
- Put your body between dogs
- Pick up dog
Breaking things up

Loud noises

- Voice
- Clang food pans together
- Air horn
Water

- Hose
- Bucket
- Water dish
- Water gun

Con: some dogs like water!

Citronella spray

- Spray in front of nose
- Easier on human noses than pepper spray
Towel or blanket

- Throw over aggressor’s face or both dogs

Put something between dogs

- Door
- Trash can
- Chair
Break sticks and how to use

• Only suitable for bully breeds
• Who should own a break stick
• Where to buy
• Stick placement and use
Summary

• Learn how to read body language
• Take things slowly
• Have a plan in case things go wrong
• Get the right equipment
• Have fun!

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