

# Defensive Dog Handling:

## Leash Skills and Body Language



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## What You'll Learn

- Review of body language
- Signs of escalating aggression
- Review of leash skills
- Making an emergency muzzle
- Working with dogs who grab the leash
- Working with aggressive dogs on leash
- Avoiding aggression from off-leash dogs



## Before You Get to This:



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## Eyes – Shape and Pupil Size



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## Mouth

Lip licking and stress yawning



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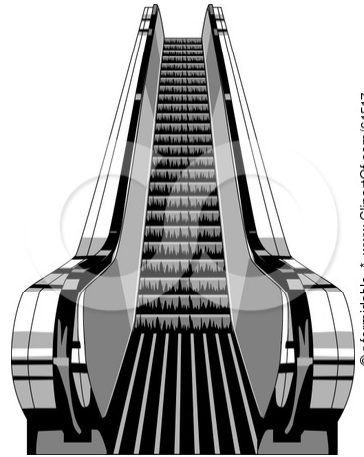
## Mouth



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## Escalating Aggression

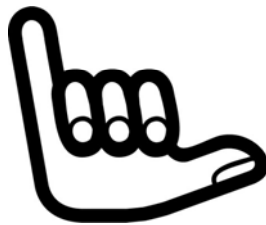
- Freeze
- Body stiffness
- Lip lick
- Lip curl
- Offensive pucker



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## Loose vs. Stiff



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## SAFER Smile Video



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## SAFER Freeze Video



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## Non-threatening Body Language

- Avoid direct stare
- Stay sideways to the dog
- Talk softly
- Do not loom



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## Leash Handling

Your hand position matters



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## Leash Handling

Your body position matters



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## Equipment

- Slip lead pros and cons
- Regular leash and collar
- Figure 8 leash

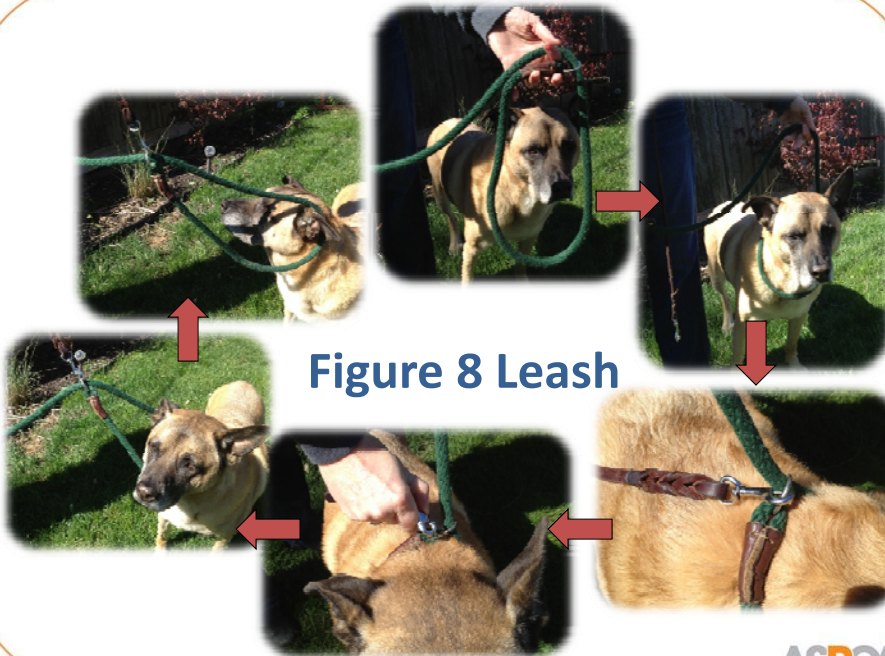


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## Figure 8 Leash



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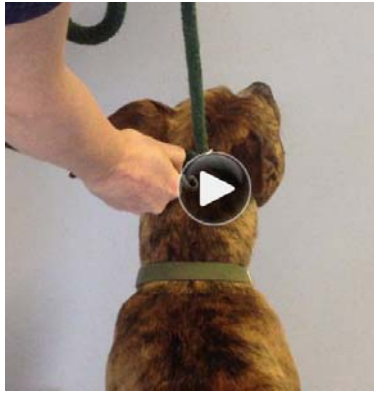


## Figure 8 Leash

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## Figure 8 Leash



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## Regular Leash and Collar

- Advantages of martingales

- Clip martingale



Clip martingale

Martingale



Buckle collars

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## Catch Poles



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## When to Use a Leash Muzzle



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## Leash Muzzle



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## Video: Leash Muzzle



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## Practice!



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## Dog Playing Tug with the Leash

- Can escalate to aggression
- Ignore?



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## Leash Position



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## Use a Toy



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## Dog Grabbing Leash



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## Deterrents

- Chain leash



- Taste deterrent



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## Staying Safe



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## Dogs in Kennels or Crates

- Face sideways
- Slip lead use
- Brace door
- Second leash
- Stay calm and quiet



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## Safety Techniques



## Double Leash, Two Handlers



*Photo credit: Red Rover*

## Leashed Dog Attempts to Bite



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## Leashed Dog Attempts to Bite



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## Hold Dog Away from You



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## Straight Arm Hold



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## Back Tie



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## Back Tie



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## Get Distance



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## If You Are Threatened by a Loose Dog

- Stop all movement
- Avert eye contact
- Turn sideways to dog
- Cross or lower arms



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## Toss Treats



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## Pop Umbrella Open



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## Citronella Spray



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## Or...

- Move slowly away
- Put something between you and dog
- “Feed” dog something



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## Things to Remember

- Pay attention to signs of escalating aggression – avoiding a bite is always best!
- Use your leash efficiently and safely – practice those leash skills!
- Practice making emergency muzzles on your foot, or on a stuffed dog



## A FEW COMING ATTRACTIONS FROM ASPCA<sup>PRO</sup>

[www.aspcapro.org/webinars](http://www.aspcapro.org/webinars)

- **Reuniting Lost Dogs with Their Families**  
(June 13)
- **FIR: Rescuing Animals from Cruelty and Disasters** (June 19)
- **Canine Communications: Dog Introductions**  
(July 12) – registration not yet open!

