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:

Eyes – Shape and Pupil Size
Mouth

Lip licking and stress yawning
Escalating Aggression

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

Loose vs. Stiff
SAFER Smile Video

SAFER Freeze Video
Non-threatening Body Language

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

Leash Handling

Your hand position matters
Leash Handling

Your body position matters

Equipment

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

Regular Leash and Collar

- Advantages of martingales
- Clip martingale

Clip martingale

Martingale

Buckle collars
Catch Poles

When to Use a Leash Muzzle
Leash Muzzle

Video: Leash Muzzle
Practice!

Dog Playing Tug with the Leash

- Can escalate to aggression
- Ignore?
Leash Position

Use a Toy
Dog Grabbing Leash

Deterrents

• Chain leash

• Taste deterrent
Staying Safe

Dogs in Kennels or Crates

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

Double Leash, Two Handlers

Photo credit: Red Rover
Leashed Dog Attempts to Bite
Hold Dog Away from You

Straight Arm Hold
Back Tie

Back Tie
Get Distance

If You Are Threatened by a Loose Dog

• Stop all movement
• Avert eye contact
• Turn sideways to dog
• Cross or lower arms
Toss Treats

Pop Umbrella Open
Citronella Spray

Or...

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

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!