

DOG SCENARIOS

1. My dog is very good. Just one thing, he won't get into my car or any car and has to be lifted in which I can't do now as he is too heavy. I have tried all sorts such as titbits and toys. He enjoys the car journey when he is in so don't know why he won't get in.

- Any health complaints – joint pain etc.
- In and out of the car repetition.
- Dog steps or ramp.
- Feed main meal in the car to create good association.

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2. My dog does not listen to me when it comes to my cats. I was told when I got him he got on with cats, this is not the case and he chases and goes for them every time even if they're in my arms. I try to tell him very calmly no but he doesn't listen and growls if I shout at him.

- Dogs and cats are communicating too!
- Running away is seen as weakness and empowers a dog.
- Elevating a cat or dog that is seen as a lower ranking member is not a good idea!
- When the owner shouts it causes tension, it's confusing to a dog and makes the situation worse.

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3. My 16 month old Labrador nips me frequently, we have had him for 10 weeks now and I have had help from two dog trainers. He is a lot better than he was but when I take him out he always tries to pull. I am always doing what I have been advised but he always wants to dominate me. I took him out the other day and he started to jump at me and nip me, it took me ages to get him home, as you can imagine I was in a mess with four nasty bite marks on both arms. Friends and family have started telling me to give him up, I am not sure what to do any more, I don't really want to give up on him just yet.

- De-sensitize the dog from the lead and putting coats and shoes on.
- See the walk how you want it to be.
- Do door repetitions.
- Change direction the moment the dog pulls in front.
- Use a short lead so the dog is 'placed' and not able to jump up.
- If dog jumps up keep walking.

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4. My border collie constantly follows my husband around and sometimes he will even nip his leg or hand as he walks past. He is also very protective towards me, if my husband sits next to me he will become on edge and watches him intently. My husband has said that if he carries on being too protective he will have to get rid of him as we have 4 children (even though he is very good with kids).
- The dog has become the lady's protector and sees the husband as a potential threat.
 - A male dog can claim the woman as 'his' and a female dog can claim the man as 'hers'.
 - It's the woman's job in this scenario to put down some 'boundaries' with the dog.
 - She could walk away and give no attention when the dog is trying to protect her and/or put the dog on the lead and correct.

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5. I am desperate to know how I might persuade my Great Dane to ignore "oncoming" dogs while out walking. Generally she walks beautifully and on a slack lead. However when she sees another dog approaching she begins to focus in on the dog and when about 25 yards away she begins throwing her weight about, trying to get at the dog! Once we are a few yards past she relaxes back to her correct walking mode. Coming up on a dog from behind does not become so much of a problem. If we have the opportunity they will eventually walk happily together. It's not all dogs that she reacts too, as she has several doggie friends also.

- This Great Dane is frightened when she is about to come head to head with another dog.
- Dogs have 3 responses when they are unsure in a situation:
Flight, Freeze and Fight – the first option is to run.
- Allow the dog to 'curve' when meeting other dogs.

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6. My dog is a Lhasa Apso, 1 year old and he keeps jumping up at the bin and trying to take food out. When we close the bin he guards it, he may even bite us. Also when he gets some paper or anything left out, he takes it and guards it, if I go to get it I say, "bad dog" and pick it up but he bites me. He's been castrated.

- Demonstrate that you and all the family eat before the dog when he's fed.
- Put the dog on a lead and lead him away from the bin when he starts to guard it.
- Stay calm and confident throughout.

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7. I have two Bedlington terriers 4 and 3, both boys, one is marking his territory inside the house. It's all open plan so he does it everywhere, up the kitchen cupboards, the fridge, table, chairs and sofa and bathroom and bedroom doors when closed, all over. He is a very intelligent dog, at night before bed if I tell him to go out for a wee and he does. He knows exactly what is expected of him, he will last all night without wanting to go out, so I know he is not doing it because he can't hold it during the day.

- Check that the dog is house trained (they are in this scenario).
- Dogs don't usually 'mark their territory' inside the house unless there's a reason to do so such as other dogs often coming round, such as a doggie day care centre.
- Peeing is one of the ways dogs can calm themselves down.
- This is separation anxiety – the symptoms are not always howling, barking and chewing.
- Set up training sessions with 'going out and coming in' repetitions etc.

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8. Our Cairn Terrier doesn't come when called. We have a large farm and walks with the 2 labs are absolutely fine. However, when I want to come indoors, that is the last thing on her mind. I have tried little nibbles, like liver, lots of times during the day, what should I do?

- Put the dog on the lead and ensure that she follows you out the door.
- The moment she pulls on the lead change direction or walk back inside.
- Do recall training with a long lead using her favourite treats.
- Towards the end of the walk put her on the lead using a treat.
- Walk her indoors ensuring that you go through the door first.

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9. My dog barks if people pass the house and barks when he sees another dog who passes the house or in the street. He is a rescue dog, he is house trained, great with the children and people but he gets very over excited at times when anyone new comes in.

- This is territorial behaviour.
- Do not allow the dog to guard or keep watch.
- Calmly walk over to the window with an upright body language and stand in front of the dog – this will communicate that you're in charge and do not have a problem with what's outside.
- When people arrive ask them to pay no attention to him until he has calmed down.

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10. I have a 3 year old Staffy bitch, she is the most loving dog I have ever had. The problem is that I am quite nervous of any aggressive behaviour, she has had a ruck with a couple of dogs and seems to be nervous when there are more than 2 to 3 other dogs around. She was set upon when she was 1 by 4 Labs so whether this has anything to do with it, I am not sure, she has just started to become defensive on the lead with other dogs too.

- The owner's nervousness will be fuelling the aggression.
- See the walk how you want it to be, before going out.
- Ensure the dog does not barge out the front door first or pull on the lead.
- Is likely trying to 'attack before being attacked.'
- Watch the dog's body language and only allow to say hello by curving.
- The dog is anxious on the lead as she cannot run if she feels in danger.
- Consider finding a recommended dog walker or doggie day care centre.