

LEAD REACTIVITY

Imagine the scene: You're out enjoying a walk when your dog spots Fluffy from down the street. Suddenly your dog starts pulling, lunging and barking and you're barely able to hold on to the lead. This may be a scenario you're all too familiar with.

Why do some dogs behave this way?

There are multiple reasons why a dog might be reactive on lead:

Your dog feels afraid

Try to view the situation from your dog's point of view. Fear is an overwhelming emotion, but you can help your dog to feel safe by always pairing the scary thing with something your dog loves.

Your dog feels frustrated

It's normal for dogs to experience frustration when the lead prevents them from getting to where they want to go. This is especially true if your dog is used to greeting impolitely off-lead.

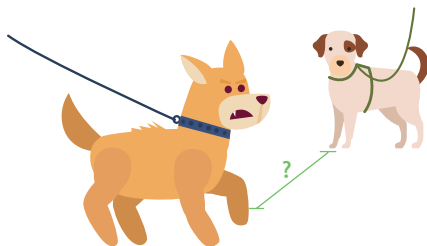
Your dog feels anxious

If you usually tighten or pull on the lead when another dog gets close, your dog can start to associate the sight of other dogs with feeling worried.



Let's get training!

1 Work out your dog's threshold



It's important to figure out how close another dog can be before your dog starts to react. A few meters further away, while your dog is still comfortable & still taking treats, should be your starting point.

2 Changing the way your dog feels about other dogs



As soon as your dog notices another dog, start feeding a steady stream of treats either by hand or on the ground. Stop delivering treats as soon as the other dog has disappeared from sight.

3 Evaluating your success

Watch your dog closely. If you notice any signs of distress continue to deliver the treats but move further away from the situation as quickly as you can. Next time increase the distance from the other dog before you begin.

