

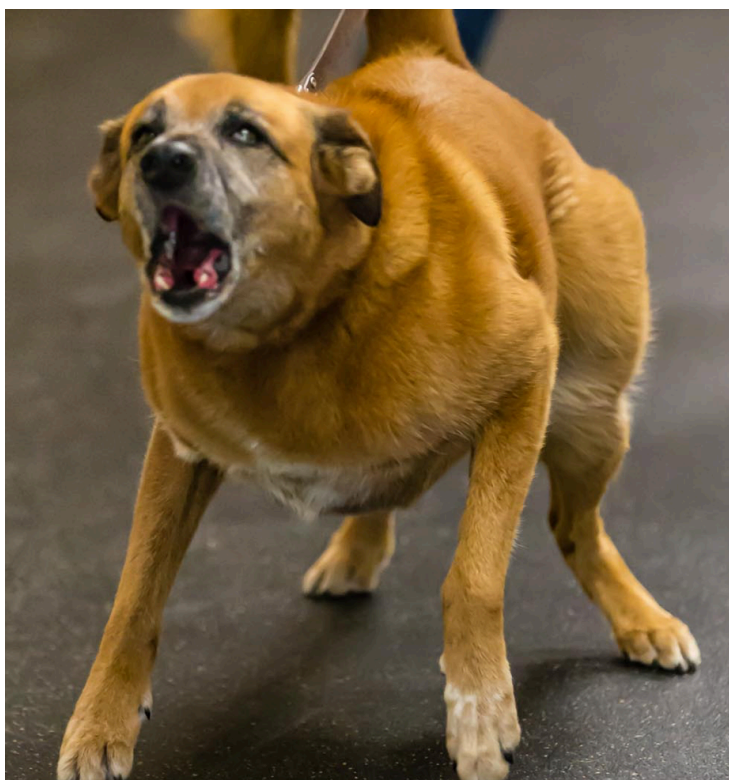


Companion Animal Behavioural Services

Creating Contentment From Knowledge And Kindness

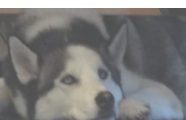
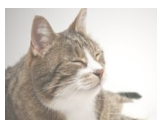
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REACTIVITY



Reactivity in dogs is common - and natural, especially when dogs are on lead. When dogs feel afraid or threatened, they can growl, bark, snap and lunge which at best can be embarrassing at and worst can lead to loss of control and a fight. Dogs can be triggered by many things including sounds and smells so you may not always perceive what has caused a reaction.

Reactive dogs may have experienced past trauma or may not have been well-socialised as puppies. Some dog may have a genetic tendency towards reactivity and others may have learned that it is a successful way of coping with fear.



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Management

While your dog is learning to cope in a more suitable way, it is important to try to identify the triggers and keep him below the threshold at which he is likely to react. This may mean taking shorter walks or avoiding areas where there are lots of dogs. It may also be useful to avoid narrow passages and crowds or other situations where your dog may feel trapped. If you feel that you cannot control your dog's reactivity when off lead, use a long line (not an extendable, flexi lead as they are dangerous) and/or exercise your dog off lead in an area where you know that you can avoid other dogs.

It will also help to identify the distance at which your dog feels that he doesn't need to react.

Never punish your dog or raise your voice if he does react. This may inflame the situation and tip it over into a fight but it will also prevent your dog from regarding you as someone to whom he can turn to feel safe and secure.

Make safety a priority and always work to reduce the chances that your dog has to practice reacting.

**Contact Companion Animal Behavioural Services at
info@dogsnet.org for more help**

