The Happy Dog Training Academy

Breaking up A Dog Fight

**hOW TO BREAK UP A DOGFIGHT AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE**

According to police/ Medical reports roughly 1,000 people per month seek medical attention for dog bites. While fatalities are very rare, dog bites are much more common than most people think. In some circumstances the dog is just plain aggressive and may need to be put down, if aggressions a normal occurrence, or if it has caused serious harm to a person. However, many people get injured by dogs when they attempt to break up a fight, or owners get there dog so excited and the dog gets overly aggressive playing, while at the dog park or when ruff play in the house teaching your dog to play ruff and show aggression is never a good idea. It is almost a guarantee to get yourself bitten. People will often get their dogs to excited while taking their dog for a walk.

Although I cannot say there is a safe way to break up a dog fight. There are right ways to break up a dog fight, and **there are many wrong ways.**

**DO NOT PICK UP YOUR DOG OR GRAB THE DOGS collers WITH YOUR HANDS.**

When two dogs’ barks and playful growls suddenly turn vicious, an owner’s first instinct may be to dive in and grab or pick up their dog. This response can lead to serious harm for both the person as well as their dog. In the intense moments of a fight, dogs can become confused about who their opponent is, and may mistake you, the person, as one of their opponents or another aggressor. Using your hands to break up a dogfight is the very last step and should only be done under dire circumstances. Furthermore, picking up a dog while it is in a fight or while it is being attacked by another or multiple other dogs puts your dog in deeper danger. You are essentially taking away its ability to defend itself or run away. An aggressive dog that is still on the ground can easily bite and tear at your dog while it is in your arms, which also poses the additional threat to you in being bitten.

**DOG BITES CAN LEAD TO INFECTION**

Almost [**one in five dog bites**](http://www.cdc.gov/features/dog-bite-prevention/) will become infected, according to the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention. Dogs’ mouths are packed full of bacteria, this means that if you are ever bitten by a dog, the wound needs to be thoroughly cleaned and monitored. If it was a serious bite, seek medical attention. Often during a dogfight, the owner ends up more injured than either of the dogs. Dogs’ fur and thick skin is much tougher than ours, and their bodies have stronger immune systems to fight off infection.

**BREAKING UP A DOGFIGHT**

It is important to remain as calm as possible when breaking up overly rough play or a fight. Dogs can sense adrenaline in humans, and they respond to it by becoming more excited or agitated. Follow the advice described below to break up a dogfight with minimal injury to the dogs, as well as to yourself:

* Use a loud, deep voice to command them to stop
* Make loud noise such as clapping your hands or banging objects together
* Try to work out witch dog is the main aggressor if their strange dogs. Normally quite easy to work out. A few seconds will not make too much difference.
* If you can and you have a lead with you through the lead under the back legs of the (strange dog) if one is your own. Your own dog is more likely to obey commands than a strange dog. With the lead under the dog pull the two ends together make a knot and pull the dog backwards. Being careful watching the dog head should it try to turn round to bite you, you can swing the dog around, keeping the dog away from yourself. With the lead around the abdomen, it is unlikely the dog can get to your hands, but your legs are vulnerable.
* Tie the dog to something and you can then concentrate on your dog or the other, even if the second dog is still be aggressive you are in a better position to deal with one dog, if one is tied to something.
* If there is no lead available, in this case follow the advice above, working out witch dog is the aggressor. However, with no lead or other suitable length of cord extra, what you should do is to take hold of the back legs when as safe as possible to do so. Once again holding the legs up off the ground, with arms outstretched swinging the dog around will help in your own safety.
* Dogs will normally calm down when apart, but do not rely on that. Keep the dogs apart. Enlist help if you are able.