



9217 W Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73099

www.myk9u.com
Angel Soriano

405-231-HEEL

Aggression in Dogs Towards Their Own Human Pack

Dogs are pack animals, and as such, maintain a very delicate Alpha order. This order must be understood and respected by humans when it deals with dog-on-dog behaviors; however, it must be curved when it deals with dog-on-human behaviors. If you understand the Alpha concept, then, it's easy to understand that most conflicts are truly about maintaining dominance over the pack.

If you're reading this article, it's because your consultation with us determined that your dog may be having an "Alpha Struggle" with its human pack. These are typical in dogs that are strong alpha leaders to start with; where they will then also attempt to take over the humans in that same pack. These conditions must be well diagnosed, and then dealt with in the correct way to ensure the behavior systematically changes.

When dealing with these conditions, the conceptual rule is to RAISE the status of all the humans in the household, while LOWERING the status of the afflicted dog (but not below the other dogs). Below are some general ideas as to how to systematically proceed in doing both of these tasks effectively.

RAISING the status of the humans

- Obedience: Immediately start by doing a well structured obedience program. Even if the dog has obedience presently, make it faster, better, more reliable.
- Provide praise, treats and positive attention with every demonstration of affection; however, be ready for a negative response, and be ready to discipline the wrong behavior.
- Praise from above, not at eye level. Remember that Alpha Leaders look down at their subordinates.
- Discipline
 - Discipline should never be painful; it should be consistent, precise, interruptive, and assertive. Using a "STOP" command assertively, while making a noise, dropping something, spraying them with a mist of water. Anything that causes the dog to stop and think will be a good interruption.
 - Discipline should always be followed by praise to ensure they understand the 'good' from the 'wrong'.
- Bond: Repeat Obedience, and interruption techniques, this will build a bond with your dog. Be the *Alpha Pack* leader. All dogs want to be in the good grace of their leader. Did you act like a leader today?
- Repeat conditions that you know would typically yield an assault from the dog, so that you may have an opportunity to interrupt + praise (discipline) the condition.



9217 W Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73099

www.myk9u.com
Angel Soriano

405-231-HEEL

LOWERING the status of the afflicted dog (rock his world)

- Bed: Do not allow your dog to sleep on a bed, or even get on it.
- Couch/Chairs: Do not allow your dog to sleep, or even get on couches, chairs, or you.
- Never allow your dog to be physically raised to your eye level. He should have to look UP at you. You are the leader?
- If your dog has a favorite location in the house, change it. Don't allow them in that room or location at all.
- Set-up a very defined eating schedule and location. No table scraps. Give him 30 minutes to eat, then remove the dish until the next meal (done or not). You giveth, and you taketh away !!!
- No treats in between meals, unless during an exercise where he displayed a positive behavior when you truly expected a bite or assault.
- Don't over excite the dog. No need to add this stimulation while conditioning training.
- In EXTREME cases, when the dog refuses to stop his assaults even after following all the steps above, we then move to more assertive methods. We alter his survivability.
 - Make sure water is available. Feed him on day-1; then do not feed him on day-2.
 - Perform some of the conditioning exercises mentioned above during day-2. If he continues to assault his humans,
 - Make sure water is available. Do not feed him day-3.
 - Spend part of day-3 performing the same conditioning exercises mentioned above during day-3; If he continues to assault his humans,
 - Make sure water is available. Do not feed him day-4.
 - Continue to repeat this conditioning exercise until he gives you a positive response (no assault where he would normally had assaulted).
 - Only offer his food after he has responded in a positive fashion. If during this positive moment, and he is feeding, and he changes his mood to be aggressive with the pack, remove the food again for another day.
 - Do not worry about starvation; since dogs will not allow themselves to starve if the food IS available, and IS offered. We are choosing to conditionally offer it.
 - Water must be present and offered all the time.
- Be consistent. No mixed messages
- Reward good behavior always. Praise passively.
- Don't lose your temper. It's not their fault you didn't communicate properly. If you loose your temper, they viewed this as the ultimate pack leader joining the fight; the dominant dog will become more aggressive towards the antagonist in the future since they learn from the experience.

The intent in this procedure is to give the reader a set of guidelines to follow after the consultation visit, and not in lieu of one.

Give this process an ample 2-3 weeks try, and be consistent. Do not deviate from it, even for a minute. Your dog has to understand that there are new rules in the castle, and that you are the King/Queen (Alpha Leader).

When was the last time you were in 100% control of anything? – Smile, you'll like the feeling.