



## ***Aggression in Dogs Towards Their Own Dog 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. Dogs within your pack will work this order out themselves, we should not try to enforce our own desire for which should be the Alpha dog on them. After they have worked this out, the majority of fights within a pack are due to miscommunication between the human and canine members. Once everyone is on the same page about and respecting the Alpha order, these issues tend to decrease dramatically.

If you're reading this article, it's because your consultation with us determined that your dog may be having an "Alpha Struggle" with another dog in your pack. These fights usually occur because one or both dogs are being promoted by the humans to a rank that is not theirs, or is not receiving support from their humans that they feel they deserve. The former means that an Omega dog could be getting Alpha treatment from their owners and is starting fights to become the Alpha. The latter refers to an Alpha dog that believes the Omega is receiving "preferential" treatment, and is bullying them to prove to you that they deserve that support.

During your evaluation, we helped you to work out which dog was the real Alpha and which was the Omega. Now, we need to change the routine at home in order to PROMOTE your Alpha dog and DEMOTE your Omega dog. Below are some general ideas as to how to systematically proceed in doing both of these tasks effectively.

### **PROMOTING the *Alpha Dog***

- The Alpha should get everything first. Greet them first. Feed them first. Give them their treats first. Always go along with the dominance order. Alpha first, Omega last.
- The Alpha should receive "public" love; give them affection when the other dogs can see. Put on a show of support for your Alpha dog in front of the rest of your pack
- The Alpha can take from the other dogs what they want. If they want a toy the Omega is chewing on they CAN go take it from them. DO NOT correct them for doing this, instead interrupt the Omega if they growl or try to keep it.

### **DEMOTING the *Omega Dog***

- The Omega should NOT be allowed on the furniture, even if the Alpha is allowed. This space is reserved for humans and your Alpha dog only.
- The Omega should receive everything last. They should be greeted last, fed last, and given treats last, after the Alpha has received theirs.
- The Omega should receive "private" love. When you are giving them attention, make sure the Alpha dog is elsewhere or otherwise distracted. This is NOT that they should receive any less attention from you, just that it should be given privately, almost secretly.
- The Omega should be interrupted for any assertive behavior towards the Alpha: Growling, stealing toys, trying to push the Alpha out of the way for attention, etc.

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..