

How some owners unknowingly permit and promote aggression in their dog

One of the most heart-rending things to see is fear in your dog. Immediately you want to comfort them and love them and put them at ease again. If your dog is displaying fear in combination with even the slightest aggression, showering them with love and comfort may be reinforcing the aggressive behavior *and* the fear. What can you do to put your dog at ease and calm down without encouraging possibly dangerous habits? One reputable suggestion is taking control of your dog physically (by simply distracting them) and requesting a "sit" or some other attainable action. Ignoring the threatening and fearful situation and replacing it with one where you are in control ends up telling the dog that fear is not ok, being mindful of you is! Now, try to tell that to a fearful dog.... it takes patience and a lot of time, depending on the dog. You can encourage this on a daily basis by giving your dog a reliable structure to live within, one where he or she will be called to task at any time and expected to comply.

One of the most heart-rending things to see is fear in your dog. Immediately you want to comfort them and love them and put them at ease again. If your dog is displaying fear in combination with even the slightest aggression, showering them with love and comfort may be reinforcing the aggressive behavior *and* the fear. What can you do to put your dog at ease and calm down without encouraging possibly dangerous habits? One reputable suggestion is to distract your dog and request a "sit" or some other attainable action. Ignoring the threatening and fearful situation and replacing it with one where you are in control ends up telling the dog that fear is not ok, being mindful of you is! Another method is to ignore your dog until you see a moment of calm, and then immediately reward the calmness with treats and praise. Timing is everything, so make sure your praise comes at the moment the dog is peaceful, not while the dog is acting fearful or showing signs of aggression. When you take control and provide your dog with a calm, structured environment where fear and aggression are unnecessary, your dog will be a much happier pooch!