

NOTE: THE TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES DESCRIBED BELOW ARE FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY - NOT FOR USE IN GENERAL TRAINING OR HANDLING.

TYPES OF DOG FIGHTS

No or Low-Contact Scuffle:

These tend to be loud but no real bite contact is being made.

"Scissor" Fight:

Bites are not gripping bites, but may make contact and immediately release before trying again.

Bite-Hold Fight:

Bites are a grab-hold onto the other dog, not wanting to let go or shaking the other dog.

1) TAKE A BREATH

Take a deep breath and evaluate what tools you have nearby and whether you need to call out for help. It's better to take the time to grab helpful tools or more people than to jump into a fight without them.



2) HANDS-OFF: LOUD SOUND

Use a loud, deep shout (not a scream), clapping, pounding on wall, shaker can, or other loud noise to startle dogs apart. If using an air horn, be aware of how this will affect your and any other person's or animal's hearing – these are not recommended for small, enclosed spaces.



3) HANDS-OFF: WATER SPRAY

Spray the dogs with water, using a spray bottle, hose, or by dumping a dog water bowl or water bottle on them. This may startle them apart.



4) HANDS-OFF: PHYSICAL BLOCK BOARD

Shove a large item between the two dogs, such as a dog gate, sturdy dog cot, or plywood board. If no large item is available, you can try using a large shaker jug (filled with pebbles or pennies) to push between the dogs – however, be careful of your hands and to avoid redirected bites.



NEVER PUT YOUR HANDS INTO THE MIDDLE OF A DOG FIGHT. HAND INJURIES CAN HAVE SEVERE, LIFELONG CONSEQUENCES.

5) HANDS-ON: LEASHED SEPARATION

Use leashes to separate the dogs. If leashes are not already attached to the dog, grab a slip lead and loop it over dog's neck. If alone, pull one dog away and securely attach to a fence or post before then pulling other dog away and separating. **Do not use this technique if the dogs are in a bite-hold position.** Be aware of redirected bite risk.



6) HANDS-ON: WHEELBARROW SEPARATION

Two people required. Grab a hold of each dog from directly behind, hands holding the dog at the top and inside of their back legs (where the legs meet their body), lift like a wheelbarrow and turn dogs away in opposite directions from each other. **Do not use if dogs are in a bite-hold position.**



CONTROL POSITION

From behind the dog and facing the same direction, straddle the dog's body with your legs positioned in front of their hips, behind their ribs (their waist). Firmly grip the back of their neck by the scruff and collar (if available).

7) HANDS-ON: SPRAY TO RELEASE (BITE/HOLD ONLY)

Assume control position. Spray citronella spray directly into the nose and mouth of the dog holding onto the other dog to get them to release their bite. When teeth/jaw open, immediately separate dogs.



8) HANDS-ON: "FEEDING THE BITE" (BITE/HOLD ONLY)

Assume control position. Done ideally with two people (one to control dog being bitten, and the other to control biting dog). From control position, push biting dog's mouth INTO the bite. Hold victim dog steady or push them into the bite at the same time. When teeth/jaw open, immediately separate dogs.



8) HANDS-ON: USE A BREAK STICK (BITE/HOLD ONLY)

Assume control position. Insert the break stick point behind the dog's front canine teeth (there is a natural gap here). Wiggle it in as much as possible. Twist the break stick forwards or backwards, as if you were revving a motorcycle, to release the bite. When teeth/jaw open, immediately move dogs away from each other.



DON'T KICK OR HIT DOGS TO TRY AND MAKE THEM LET GO. THIS CAN INTENSIFY THE FIGHT OR RESULT IN A REDIRECTED BITE.