

Understanding Canine Aggression



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About Aggression

- Attempt / warning to competitor of injury or pain
- Variety of behaviors
- May culminate in attack
- May abort at any point
- Protect, gain resources, self
- Keep peace, social interactions
- Many forms (pain, maternal, territory, etc.)

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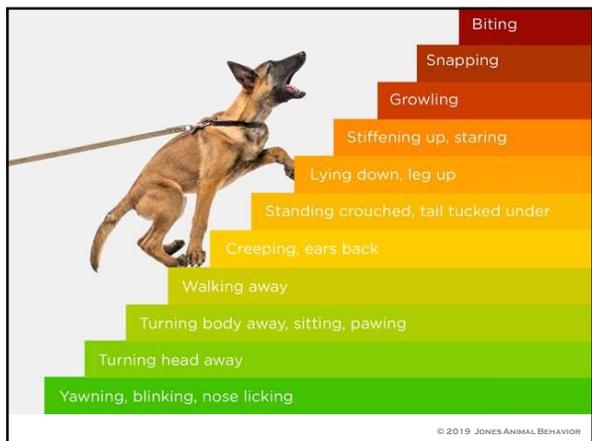


Threat is Perception

- Real
- Imagined
- Memory
- See, smell, hear
- Pet decides
- Safety bubble
- Plastic

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Contributing Factors

- Nature AND nurture
- Lack of / poor socialization
- Developmental periods
- Under stimulated
- Frustration, stress
- Punishment
- Follow our lead
- Trauma, pain, stress
- Group dynamics

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Industry Standards

Dr. Ian Dunbar's Dog Bite Scale (official Authorized Version)

An assessment of the severity of biting problems based on an objective evaluation of wound pathology

Level 1: Unintentional nip or bite to the hand or foot.

Level 2: Intentional nip or bite to the hand or foot.

Level 3: Intentional bite to the hand or foot.

Level 4: Intentional bite to the hand or foot.

Level 5: Intentional bite to the hand or foot.

Level 6: Intentional bite to the hand or foot.

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Bite Scale Overview

1. No contact
2. Contact, no puncture, may be bruise/scratch
3. Single/mult bite, punctures < 1/2 canine, may be cut single direction
4. Single bite, puncture > 1/2 canine (clamp) or slashes in both directions (shake), deep bruising
5. Mult bites (2+ level 4) or attacks (1+ level 4), deep punctures
6. Victim dead



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Prognosis

1. No contact
2. Contact, no puncture, may be bruise/scratch
3. Single/mult bite, punctures < 1/2 canine, may be cut single direction
4. Single bite, puncture > 1/2 canine (clamp) or slashes in both directions (shake), deep bruising
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"It Depends"

- Severity, history
- Age, size
- Health, treatment requirements
- Predictability (circumstances, warnings)
- Management (rural/country, specific/all)
- Targets (kids in house, humans, movement)
- Triggers (proximity, variety, intensity)
- Motivation
- Handler personality, instinct, skill, resources
- Professional skill, technique, experience



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Dealing With Aggression

- Life changes
- On-going management
- Safety precautions
- Behavior modification
- Pharmacology
- Vet and/or vet behaviorist
- 1yr + training for safety
- Lifetime vigilance
- Thousands of dollars
- Hundreds of hours

SUCCESS



WHAT PEOPLE THINK IT LOOKS LIKE

SUCCESS



WHAT IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE

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Unknown Factors



- Human error
- Complacency
- Malfunction
- Lifestyle changes
- Environmental changes
- Underminers

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Questions?



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