



# Lifetime Small Animal Hospital

*“Helping Your Pet Be Its Best – for a Lifetime”*

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## **AGGRESSIVE DOG**

The aggressive dog is a difficult problem. If you are the owner of an aggressive dog, you should weigh the risks of keeping an aggressive pet against the benefits. It is important that you consider the following:

- With proper treatment, the frequency and severity of aggression may be reduced, but in most cases it cannot be totally eliminated.
- Even after treatment, no one can guarantee that the aggression will never occur again.
- You are legally responsible for your dog's behavior.
- It is important to realistically consider whether keeping the pet is worth the risks.

Obtaining a thorough history is important in trying to find a solution to the problem of aggression. Please answer the following questions:

- Is your dog aggressive toward family members?
- Is it aggressive to adult family members?
- Is it aggressive to children family members?
- Is it aggressive to other pets in the household?
- Is your dog aggressive to non-family members?
- Is it aggressive to adult non-family members?
- Is it aggressive to children non-family members?
- Is it aggressive to pets not in the household?
- Is your dog's aggressive behavior recent (within the past 6 months)?
- Did the problem develop gradually
- Is the problem getting worse?

- Does your dog growl or bark threateningly
- Does your dog snap?
- Is the aggressive behavior associated with play
- Has your dog ever bitten a person,
- Has your dog ever bitten another animal?
- Is your dog aggressive when approached while eating?
- Is your dog aggressive when disturbed when sleeping or resting?
- Is your dog aggressive when disciplined, threatened, punished, or hit?
- Is your dog aggressive when people enter your home?
- Is your dog aggressive when people enter your yard?
- Is your dog aggressive ONLY when reached for or approached?
- If your dog is female, has she been in heat or had puppies within the past 6 months
- Are there areas of your dog's body that seem to be especially sensitive?
- Is the aggression related to attempts to groom, medicate, or handle?
- Does the dog have any health problems at this time?
- Do you notice your dog exhibiting fear (ears back, tail tucked)
- Does your dog only fight with dogs of the same sex?