

Methods that may help to break up dog fights

1. Make a loud noise using a whistle, horn, scream.
2. Spray something aversive towards their noses (citronella, bitter apple, carbonated beverage etc...). This may need to be repeated several times.
3. Ring the doorbell in hopes of distracting the dog.
4. If there is a word(s) that really motivated you dog like car ride, cookies, walks etc..try saying those words in a loud but jolly tone.
5. Use a towel/blanket to throw over the aggressor in hopes of disorienting/distracting him/her.
6. Keep leashes on the dogs so you can pull them apart.
7. Use a bite stick (or any hard cylindrical solid object) and calmly try to pry the aggressor's mouth off of the victim.
8. Grab the aggressors back legs and lift them up and when you see him/her loosen his grip a bit, move backwards (if available, use a cane/long stick to gently lift hindlegs of aggressor).
9. Grab the aggressor by the knees/legs and push the whole dog forward and then in a circular pattern while firmly holding onto the upper back legs.
10. Use your fist and come straight down over the muzzle of the aggressor. One good hard jab and the dog may open his mouth to allow you to pull him back. This may require multiple hits.
11. Use a baby gate and bring it straight down on the muzzle of the aggressor. Continue to bring it up and down until the aggressor lets go. Once the aggressor lets go, immediately slide the gate and your body in between the dogs and use the gate as a shield to pin the aggressor against a wall or through a doorway. If you are using your body to pin a dog against a wall, try your hindside vs. your arms.
12. Keep a heavy collar on a the larger breed and if that dog has a smaller dog in his/he mouth use the collar to drag both dogs towards a sliding glass door. Put the little dog on one side and then close the door between the dogs as you gently and steadily pull back on the collar. As soon as the bigger dog lets go, you have a door in between the dogs.

Anytime you try and breakup a dog fight, there is an inherent risk of being bitten. It is advised you start with the least invasive and safest techniques.

Ideally you are working with a behavior specialist to advise which method is most appropriate for each situation.

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