

Dog Fight Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Title: Dog Fight Protocol

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Purpose

To provide a clear and effective response protocol for managing dog fights in a controlled environment.

Scope

This procedure applies to all staff members responsible for overseeing dog interactions and managing potential conflicts.

Procedure

Step 1: Call It Out on the Radio

- **Action:** Clearly announce the situation and what assistance is needed.
- **Details:**
 - Provide specifics on the location (e.g., closest building, pod number, inside or outside).
 - Repeat the announcement 2-3 times to ensure clarity and understanding.

Step 2: Use Your Pet Corrector

- **Action:** Utilize the pet corrector as a startle tool.
- **Details:**
 - Approach as close to the dogs' faces as you feel comfortable and deliver a short, strong pulse. Be careful not to spray into the dogs' eyes! This will cause an audible as well as visual distraction.
 - Always be prepared for a redirect; maintain awareness of the dogs' behavior.

- If the dogs separate, secure one (the loose dog or apparent aggressor) and remove it from the scene.

Step 3: Study the Dogs

- **Action:** Assess the dogs' behaviors.
- **Details:**
 - Observe if the dogs are releasing each other at different times or if one or both are still engaged.
 - This assessment informs your next steps for intervention.

Step 4: Wheelbarrow the Dogs

- **Action:** Implement the wheelbarrow technique.
- **Details:**
 - If one dog is the apparent aggressor, focus on that dog.
 - If both are engaged, wait for a second person to assist and wheelbarrow both dogs simultaneously.
 - Lift dogs by their hind ankles. This destabilizes them and may cause them to let go. It also keeps them from putting their full power into the fight.
 - **Important:** Do not pull the dogs apart if they are still holding onto each other, as this will cause more damage.

Step 5: Try Aversives While Wheelbarrowing

- **Action:** Employ additional distractions during the wheelbarrow.
- **Details:**
 - Have a second or third person use the pet corrector, air horn, or dump a bucket of water on the dogs to encourage separation.
 - Focus on timing and wait for a break in fighting to safely pull the dogs apart.

Step 6: Dealing with Uninterruptible Fights

- **Action:** Try different techniques to release an uninterruptible bite
- **Details:**

- Options include using a hose, twisting collars, feeding the bite, employing a break stick, or waiting it out.
 - When using a break stick, insert it between the attached dog's back teeth and twist to open the mouth. Only use a break stick if absolutely necessary.
 - Only pull dogs apart once they let go.
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Additional Tips

- **Stay Calm:** Maintain composure, as dogs can sense your energy.
 - **Less is More:** Limit the number of people involved to no more than four, reducing pressure on the dogs.
 - **Permission Required:** Never enter a play yard without permission from the staff member managing the playgroup.
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Training

All staff should read this SOP, watch the dog fight protocol video and read the dog bite SOP to ensure readiness in case of a dog fight.