



# Puppies:

Teaching your pup to stop being reactive toward other dogs. .

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Training a dog to stop being reactive towards other dogs involves a combination of behavior modification techniques, desensitization, and positive reinforcement. Here's a guide to help you through the process:

1. **Understand the Triggers:** Identify what specifically triggers your dog's reactivity. This could be the sight of another dog, certain behaviors, or even specific environments.
2. **Create Distance:** When you see a trigger (another dog), create distance between your dog and the other dog. This allows your dog to feel safe and reduces the likelihood of a reactive response.
3. **Use Positive Reinforcement:** Reward your dog for calm behavior when you're in the presence of triggers. Treats, praise, and toys can reinforce good behavior.
4. **Desensitization:** Gradually expose your dog to other dogs at a distance where they don't react. Over time, you can decrease the distance as your dog becomes more comfortable.
5. **Counter-Conditioning:** Pair the sight of other dogs with something your dog loves (like treats). This helps change your dog's emotional response to other dogs from negative to positive.
6. **Teach Alternate Behaviors:** Train your dog to perform an alternate behavior when they see another dog, such as sitting or looking at you. This redirects their focus and helps them remain calm.
7. **Manage the Environment:** Avoid situations where your dog is likely to react until they are better trained. Use leashes, harnesses, or muzzles if necessary for safety.
8. **Professional Help:** Consider consulting a professional dog trainer or behaviorist, especially if the reactivity is severe. They can provide tailored advice and techniques.
9. **Consistency and Patience:** Be consistent with training and patient with your dog's progress. Behavior modification can take time.
10. **Practice Regularly:** Continually practice in various environments with different dogs, gradually increasing the difficulty level as your dog's confidence grows.

Training a dog to reduce reactivity is a journey that requires time, effort, and understanding, but with dedication, significant improvements can be made.