

Aggression

Aggression in pets should be recognized and corrected as soon as possible.

It can be hard to predict how an aggressive pet will react when they're stressed or frightened, or with unknown people and pets, at grooming or boarding facilities, and at the vet. Proper training, behavioral consultation, and medical consultations can all help your pet.

► Aggressive pets are a threat to people, other pets, and themselves.

What does it look like?

Common signs:

Dogs

- Stiff posture
- Ears pinned back
- Bared teeth
- Growling
- Lunging
- Biting

Cats

- Stiff posture and raised hind end
- Ears pinned back
- Raised hair
- Growling
- Swatting
- Biting



How is it diagnosed?

While spotting aggression is easy, diagnosing the cause can be a challenge.

- If your pet suddenly becomes aggressive, schedule a thorough veterinary examination to help determine if a medical problem or painful condition is changing their behavior
- If there's no underlying medical issue, a certified animal behaviorist can help you determine the cause and work with you to correct it

How is it treated?

Many aggressive behaviors can be reduced or eliminated with proper training, especially positive reinforcement of good social behavior.

- Resolving pain or medical problems can help to modify behavior
- Medication to help reduce anxiety may help in severe cases



► Reducing your pet's stress levels and providing positive behavior therapy can help to make life together much safer and more pleasant.



How to help your pet

- Use caution around aggressive animals to avoid injury
- Promptly recognize and correct aggressive behavior
- Consider consulting and training with an animal behaviorist
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions

