



Dog Reactivity

Social Frustration

Socially frustrated dogs can jump at the end of the leash, make excessive vocalizations such as growling or barking, and/or non-stop pulling directed at the dog they are reacting to. This behaviour generally disappears when your dog is with other dogs without a barrier, such as the leash.

This behaviour can be modified by allowing your dog to play with other dogs off-leash in a controlled environment, providing other forms of enrichment such as controlled tug, and working on walking techniques (found in the walking technique resource).

Fear Reactivity

This reactivity can be caused by a multitude of things; a bad experience with the stimulus, lack of exposure to the stimulus or a novel and unfamiliar stimulus (such as a large truck when you have only seen cars).

This behaviour can be modified by increasing your dog's confidence by allowing them to meet appropriate dogs off-leash in controlled settings, obedience training and games like tug. This form of reactivity is the most challenging one to modify, you may need to seek professional help depending on the severity of the fear.

Learned Behaviour

Some dogs enjoy pulling and it can act as a self-rewarding behaviour. The dog pulls, gets where he/she wants to go, realizes pulling works, and is more likely to continue pulling. In this instance, NOT pulling needs to be more rewarding than pulling. This behaviour can be modified by implementing walking techniques.

Support:

Our Behaviour Support Team can help to provide resources and tips if you experience concerns in the home environment. With your adoption the GTHS will provide an over the phone consultation in order to provide you with tips and resources to set your new dog up for success. In all cases of dog adoptions, the GTHS recommends hiring a professional dog training or behavioural consultant to ensure your relationship with your new dog starts off on the right paw! A list of local trainers is enclosed in your adoption package.

Our Behaviour Support Team can be reached at behaviour@gths.ca

Georgian Triangle Humane Society

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