

## AGGRESSIVE DOG CONTROL

Pets Return Home accepts dogs with wide-ranging behavior issues. Canine Aggressive Behavior Candidates exhibit aggressive behaviors that may include one or more of the following: barking, lunging, growling, posturing, body tension, snapping, biting or any other behavior that is intended to cause harm and or injury to other beings. These behaviors may be targeted toward humans, dogs, other animals. These behaviors often arise due to fear or psychophysiological factors.

The result of this aggressive behavior will at times require humans to intervene in order to stop the behavior and prevent a serious injurious or deadly attack on another dog or human.

Pets Return Home has a strict protocol in dealing with any attack or aggressive behavior. We use control measures designed to cease all aggressive behavior without causing injury to any human and/or animal. These measures and timing of intervention are controlled and calculated in order to maintain established trust and confidence in humans and animals while still providing an appropriate canine-clear leadership response.

Our control measures follow a multi-tier response based upon the incident, number of involved individuals, intensity, injury potential or risk to life. These responses include:

1. Verbal Commands
2. Distraction Techniques
  - a. Audible
  - b. Tactile
3. Lethal Force

### VERBAL COMMANDS

There are strict policies, procedures and training protocols required of our canine behavior coaches, trainers and volunteers. These aforementioned individuals work hard to create a relationship with any dog they may encounter on the property and are able to provide verbal cues to encourage or discourage canine behaviors. Verbal commands are 95% successful in preventing and stopping canine aggressive behavior at Pets Return Home. The commands are controlled and authoritative commands of which the dog is familiar. If this does not work after three attempts, an audible distraction technique is employed.

## DISTRACTION TECHNIQUES

### **AUDIBLE**

In situations where verbal commands are ineffective or when covering an amount of distance to issue a verbal command is unreasonable, Pets Return Home property has designated locations equip with 120 dB Air Horns for use in the aforementioned event verbal commands are ineffective. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of incidents unresponsive to verbal commands are ended with an air horn activation.

Another device employed at Pets Return Home emits an electrical charge sound (a loud crackle) that a dog hears at a frequency above human hearing. The high frequency noise distracts the dog so it may listen to a verbal command to cease an attack. The electrical charge sound from this device typically ceases 99.9% of all aggressive activity. These devices are commercially marketed as Stun Batons or Stun Guns. These are not Tasers. See Note below for the difference.

#### Note

Tasers are devices typically used by military and police organizations around the world to immobilize a human or animal. Two sharp projectiles with barbs are ejected from a gun, penetrate and 'stick' in the target. The holder of the gun squeezes a trigger causing a current to travel through the body of the target. The result is muscle contraction from electrical stimulation leading to temporary paralysis and in some rare cases, death.

Stun devices in use by Pets Return Home use an electrical charge between two probes mounted on the end of a cylindrical housing. The surface area of the "hot" end is about the size of a US quarter or smaller.

The stun device will cause pain if touched to a living organism while the activation button is pressed. This pain is akin to a sharp stabbing pain. It does not affect the muscular system of the target. The pain dissipates quickly.

## **TACTILE**

Another method of distracting a dog to regain control of them is through tactile cues. Pets Return Home has a strict policy against physical contact with any part of a human body or other hard object and a dog. We are extremely cautious not to undermine or regress the leadership, trust and confidence these dogs have built. If all other means to prevent a dog or dogs from engaging in aggressive injury or life threatening aggressive behavior have failed, our protocol calls for use of the stun baton to distract and disengage the dog from its aggressive intent.

The stun batons are used only by a qualified behavior coach on an animal, unless there is risk to the life of a human being. Most of the stun batons we have on the property are very short, no more than six inches at most and generate momentary discomfort (1-3 seconds) to an attacking animal in order to prevent serious injury and/or death to others.

The short batons have limited effectiveness and require the user to be in close proximity to the dog. This could lead to injury to an inexperienced user.

Pets Return Home will use the capabilities of a longer stun baton to distract a dog or dogs when all non-physical methods are ineffective, canine lives are in danger, human lives are in danger or serious injury to either is imminent. The reach of the longer device gives a safe distance to the user of the device. Again, only qualified behavior coaches are allowed to use these devices under normal circumstances.

## LETHAL FORCE

Pets Return Home has a lethal force protocol designed to save the lives of humans and other living beings. If a person reasonably believes his or her life or the life of another living being is in danger he or she is advised to use lethal force on any animal to preserve life. Please note that lethal force is used only when another life is in serious jeopardy and even then used only as a last resort, when no other option is available.