



# What To Do If Your Dog Is Involved in a Dog Fight

Dog fights happen fast and can be terrifying. Staying calm and knowing what to do can help reduce injuries to both dogs and people.

## **Stay As Calm As Possible**

Screaming or panicking may increase excitement and aggression. Try to stay focused and think clearly.

## **Do NOT Grab Collars with Bare Hands**

People are commonly bitten accidentally during dog fights. Reaching between fighting dogs is extremely dangerous.

## **Use Distractions if Possible**

Loud noises, water, blankets, or barriers may help interrupt the fight without putting yourself directly in danger.

## **Wheelbarrow Method**

If two adults are present, each person can carefully lift the back legs of one dog and pull backward in a steady motion. Move in a circle while backing away to reduce the chance of being bitten.

## **Separate Immediately After**

Once separated, keep dogs completely apart and secured. Adrenaline can remain high and fighting may restart.

## **Check Carefully for Injuries**

Dog bites may look small on the surface but can cause severe internal damage, infection, or puncture wounds.

## **Watch for Shock**

Signs include weakness, pale gums, rapid breathing, collapse, or extreme lethargy.

## **Seek Veterinary Care**

Even if injuries seem minor, veterinary evaluation is important. Hidden punctures and infection are common.

## **Do Not Punish Afterward**

Dogs may already be frightened or overstimulated. Punishment after the fight can increase fear and stress.

## **Prevent Future Incidents**

Identify triggers, supervise interactions carefully, and seek professional behavioral help if needed.

## **EMERGENCY WARNING SIGNS**

Difficulty breathing
Heavy bleeding
Collapse or weakness
Pale gums
Large puncture wounds or swelling
<b>ACTION:</b> Seek veterinary care immediately

Preparation and staying calm can make a major difference during a dog fight emergency.

Pay It Fur-Ward — Love Without Judgement