

Two Tips For Interacting with Fearful Dogs

These are good general guidelines, but won't apply to every dog. If your dog has a bite history or behaves aggressively toward family or visitors, keep them physically separated from them & consult with a behavior professional



TIP #1: Respect the Safety Bubble!

We dislike it when people invade our personal space uninvited. Dogs are the same way. Ways to avoid breaching a dog's safety bubble:

- ✦ **AVOID** staring at, moving toward, bending over, or reaching toward your fearful dog, unless they're very comfortable with these things;
- ✦ **Don't try to give treats by hand.** (Unless, of course, your dog happily takes treats from you hand without hesitation!) Instead, toss treats behind a fearful dog so they can move away from you to get the treat;
- ✦ **Never corner or forcefully restrain a fearful dog.** Always allow an escape route, or biting might be the dog's only option.



Danger!



Danger!

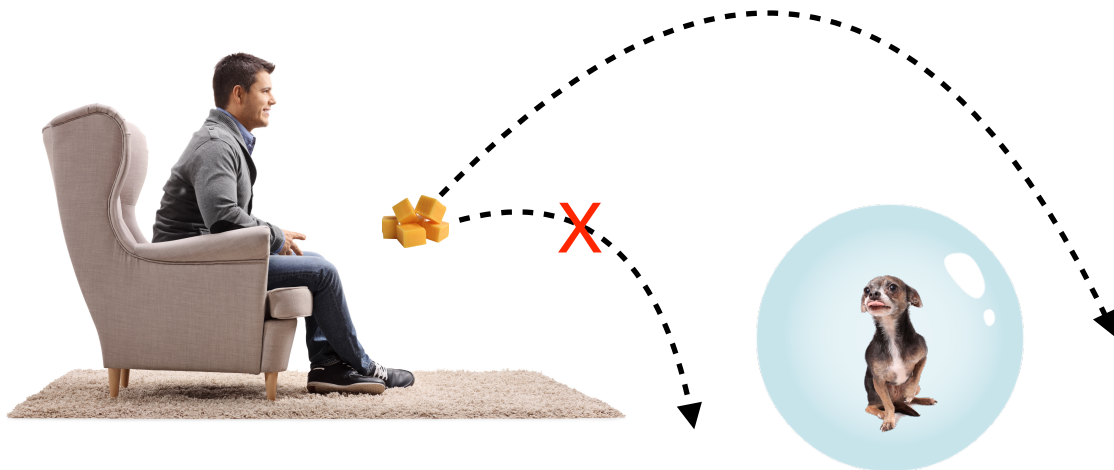


Danger!

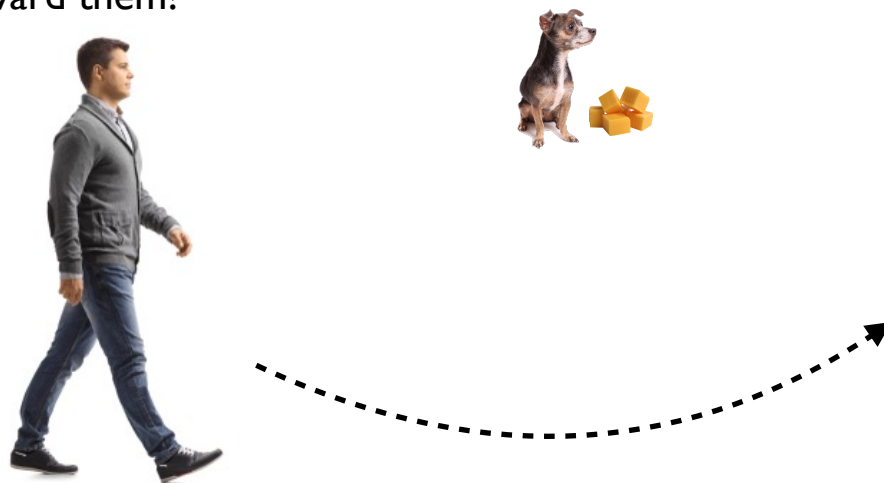
TIP #2: Use Food When You Move Around

Fearful pups often startle when we stand up or move around near them. Try these methods of creating more space for your fearful pup:

- ♦ **“Warn” your dog** with a soft noise or small movement, **BEFORE** you stand up or walk around. This decreases the risk that you’ll startle them;
- ♦ **Toss treats away from you** to encourage your dog to move farther away from you, **before** you (slowly) stand up;



- ♦ **When walking past a fearful dog**, move slowly. Toss food away from your path and give them a wide berth. Avoid looking at or walking directly toward them!



Get help! www.dogkindtraining.com/Confidence-builders-club



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