



# **SACRAMENTO SPCA**

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## **INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

### 'Pushy' Dogs

1. Puts his/her head or paws over the shoulder area of other dogs.
2. Mounts other dogs or rolls them over.
3. Doesn't take the 'hint' from other dogs that they want to be left alone. Continues to bully and pick on other dogs.
4. Behavior doesn't look like play. The pushy dog has to be in charge and will 'bully' other dogs. Play is always back-and-forth between two dogs, and a pushy dog would rather be in control than allow the other dog(s) to do so some of the time.
5. This type of dog is not having fun, and neither are the dogs he/she is engaging with. If a dog continues to act this way, it is a good idea to remove him/her from the play area.

### Shy/Fearful Dogs

1. A dog that avoids other dogs. The body posture of a shy/fearful dog is one that is cowed down with tail tucked under, head down and ears back. This dog is trying to make himself/herself appear smaller. The dog is trying to disappear.
2. A dog that will run from other dogs because he/she is afraid of them. The dog does not look happy.
3. The dog may become so upset that he/she will nip at other dogs so that they will leave him/her alone.
4. This dog is not having fun, and when the dog nips to move other dogs away and if they don't respond, then the dog has learned that even this won't keep the other dog(s) away and may become more aggressive in his/her behavior when meeting dogs in the future.
5. If you see a dog behaving in this way he/she should be removed from the play area.

### Aggressive Dogs

1. Dogs will get into altercations whenever there is a group of dogs. However, the upset between two dogs should only last a few seconds and then they should break up on their own and move on.
2. Aggressive dogs will display one/all of the following behaviors (along with snarling, snapping and/or biting): don't want other dogs in their personal space, be very protective over their toys or person, will become much more agitated with other 'dominant-type' dogs, bully submissive dogs, and doesn't really want to play but would rather be left alone or push other dogs around.
3. This dog definitely needs to be removed from the play area and should not be brought back to the group. This dog needs to learn appropriate play behavior with the assistance of a professional trainer.