

DOG LIFE



Will my dog bite me?

■ BY HARRY KALAJIAN

Pending certain circumstances your dog can and will bite you; even the nicest dog can and will.

I have been asked this question many times, and the answer is it depends. The circumstances that your dog bites you can be the cause for many reasons. People assume that their dog would never do that, but the truth is it will and it can. Here are a few pending reasons; possession, territorial, food, hurt/pain, recollection of past experience(s) and the list goes on.

Although we have domesticated our dog since its arrival in our homes, their natural instincts are still there. When the circumstance presents itself their instincts awaken and do what comes naturally to them. With the help of an experienced trainer the aggressive behavior can be modified, corrected or controlled, but that doesn't guarantee your dog won't still bite.

One of the ways to lower the chances of bite issues is to take a proper no nonsense professional obedience training. That helps with the dog acknowledging that you are the Alpha, as they see you as Alpha they will have a less tendency to try to challenge you. However they can still try.

When your dog sees you as the Alpha it knows that if it tries that there will be consequences. Owners must take the roll of Alpha, in the training of their dog. Alpha is achieved by wise use of power, not by punishment. It is earned when the pup learns to respect limits imposed on its activities, not by bribing the pup to be "good."

Owners must be just as quick to

deal with transgressions with a response that is as firm as necessary. Pending the negative level of aggression exhibited an equal level of correction must be administered. If you don't; it will test you again and again until one of you fold.

For going on beds and couches make sure you have given permission for them to do so. If they get on without an invitation, one day when he/she is sleeping and you try to

move them they can and will growl at you. Maybe not today, not tomorrow but one day they will. When you are about to sit on the couch and your dog jumps up at the same time do not allow it, get him off. Once you have settled on the couch then invite him/her if you choose to. At no point allow them to make the decision. Even if you have to constantly tell them to get off. Your dog with time will see you as the top dog the Alpha.

They will come to understand that you always make the final decision.

Your dog may show aggression when you go near their food and they can lash out to bite. Or they may be gnawing on a bone or a chewy even then they can lash out when you try to take it.

You probably saying I can take anything away from my dog, you probably can. However certain stuff you won't be able to, unless your dog truly sees you as the top Alpha dog. If you are those that think you can take a real bone from them, a bone that you bought from the grocery store the chances are you will be bit.

Please I can't say enough but be extremely care full in situations when dealing with a real bone. Seek a professional trainer if you want to correct or modify that type of behavior or any similar aggressive behaviors. If you are able to take the real bone away from them, thumbs up, your dog knows and sees you as top dog the Alpha.

Always remember

Training isn't hard as long as you are willing to put time and follow my formula to have success; Patience, Persistence, Consistency & Repetition. If you still fail, it's on you not your dog. You didn't stick to the formula.

Have a woof woof of a month.

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Why Do Dogs Bite?

Not only is it important to understand how to prevent a dog bite incident but also why dogs might bite. A dog may bite as a reaction to a stimulus. Stimulus can include:



- ✓ Displaced Dominance Aggression
- ✓ Overstimulated/Excited
- ✓ Fear/Suddenly Startled
- ✓ Resource Guarding
- ✓ Feeling Threatened
- ✓ Stress
- ✓ Illness/Pain