

Assessing Dog to Dog Interactions

DVD track guide

SECTION ONE: *Assessing On-Leash Interactions*

TRACK 1: *Introduction.* This DVD identifies and examines those behaviors which indicate whether an interaction between dogs is safe or risky, and whether it is dangerous to allow the interaction to continue. Throughout the DVD multiple examples of each behavior are shown at normal speed and in slow motion.

The first section details the procedures for how to assess two dogs meeting on leash. The procedure for assessing on leash interactions is divided into four steps, each building on the previous one. If an interaction becomes too risky in one of the steps, the assessment can be terminated before a dog gets hurt.

TRACK 2: *Least Risky Responses.* This track identifies and illustrates four behavioral indicators of positive, “least risky” dog to dog interaction.

TRACK 3: *Slightly More Risky Responses.* This track illustrates four behaviors exhibited during dog to dog interactions which indicate some risk of a dangerous encounter.

TRACK 4: *Most Risky Responses.* This track examines in detail six behaviors which indicate the highest risk for potentially dangerous dog to dog encounters.

TRACK 5: *Using a Fake, Stuffed Dog Instead of a Live Dog.* This track introduces the concept of using a realistic but fake, stuffed dog in the assessment, which allows the assessment to proceed safely all the way to physical contact between the dogs. Multiple examples of dogs meeting a fake dog are shown, as well as a dog meeting first a real dog and then a fake dog, illustrating the similarity of the responses.

This track concludes with a summary of behaviors indicating the safest, healthiest dog to dog interactions, and the most risky and dangerous behaviors.

SECTION TWO: *Assessing Off-Leash Interactions*

TRACK 6: *Observing and Assessing Play.* This track introduces the viewer to observing dogs playing together, and how to assess these interactions. Five characteristics of healthy and “least risky” play are examined.

TRACK 7: *Chasing Play.* Games of chase present a high potential risk of harm. This track details three “least risky” and most healthy behaviors to look for during chasing play.

TRACK 8: *Slightly Risky Play.* This track identifies and illustrates four play responses indicating some risk for a dangerous encounter.

TRACK 9: *Most Risky Play Behaviors.* This track identifies and illustrates nine play behaviors indicating the highest risk for a dangerous encounter, and which signal that play should be interrupted to avoid potential harm.

The track concludes with a summary of the healthiest off-leash play responses.