

Does your dog **bark, growl or lunge** at other dogs or people when out for an on-leash walk?

JOIN THE CLUB!



Dog Club

What it is: A club where people with dogs who are reactive on-leash to dogs or people can practice the technique called Behavior Adjustment Training.

What is Behavior Adjustment Training? With this technique people practice having their dogs behave calmly in a situation where they would usually be reactive. The rewards for calm behavior are real-life rewards, usually trotting away from another dog (release of social pressure). It gives your dog a chance to choose to use a socially acceptable behavior over being reactive. Usually your dog barks & growls at another dog or person to make them go away, and it works because you DO leave the area! We will give your dog what he/she wants---increased distance from the other dog---for offering calm behaviors instead. You and your dog will work opposite another dog/handler team, working at a distance great enough so that your dog will not be reactive, which is called working “under threshold”. Your dog gets to practice approaching another dog and offering “calming signals” such as *head turns, lip-licking, ground sniffing, shake-offs, sneezing, yawning or big blinks* instead of erupting into a barking frenzy.

Goal: To have your dog behave calmly in the presense of other dogs and people.

Why a Club? In order for Behavior Adjustment Training to be successful, you have to have 15 to 20 sessions (averaging 30 - 45 minutes each). If you hire a trainer for all those sessions it would be very costly. And the hardest part about the set-ups for sessions is obtaining other dog/handler teams to work with. In order for the behavior to generalize, you need to work your dog with many different dogs and people. What type of person would be most motivated to work with an owner with a reactive dog? Another person who has a reactive dog and can work their dog with you and your dog.

Trial Session for only \$20! Test-drive the Behavior Adjustment Training method with your dog for only \$20 (one approximately 30-40 minute session) to see if it works for you and your dog. Trial session separate from and not included in packages below.

Schedule Sessions: Arrange with Mallory times you are available to work with your dog for up to 45 minutes. She will set up a meeting place & time for you and your dog to work with another team. ***We will meet in public places that are known for being quiet and unpopulated.*** The more places that we practice in the more we are likely to generalize your dog's behavior. ***The preferred phone # for scheduling is 207-642-3693.***

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Pricing: Each Package: Five sessions of (approximately) 45 minutes with another dog/handler team provided.

Club Package: First two sessions (Including trial session) *with a dedicated trainer/coach.* All other sessions with part-time trainer/coach (divided between the two teams). \$160

Here's the Kicker: After you have completed your **Club Package** Mallory will keep you on the list of club members to use in future sessions. So you can keep practicing for free!

Multiple Handlers at Sessions: If you wish to bring your spouse or partner (no young children allowed at sessions, please) ***that person MUST arrive with you.*** Family members showing up halfway through the session get your dog excited and interrupt the flow of the session, negating the whole process of your dog being calm around other dogs.

During Sessions, What to Do If:

If at any time your dog becomes reactive during a session you can lure them away from the other team with food or trot them away using a happy, calm voice ("Let's go!") and we will increase the distance that you will approach the other team and stop.

If your dog is "done" and lies down or does not want to continue: Then we take a break or call it a day, depending on where in the session we are.