



Dr. Yin's Feuding Fido's Protocol

(11/1/05 update)

It sounds like a plot from a cheap made-for-TV movie. Two siblings raised together for years. Competition suddenly creates a deadly rift between them. Trapped together under one roof they're forced to fight it out.

No, it's not ripped from the headlines, it's more likely playing at a home nearby. But it doesn't involve people rather it's a story about their pooches. These dogs fight primarily in their owners' presence.

While most people hope their dogs will get along like best friends, frequently, these fidos fight like arch enemies. The typical scenario is that a pup or younger Fido comes into the home and takes a place as second fiddle. He respects older Rover and gives him preferred access to all resources such as toys, attention and treats. But then as young Fido reaches adolescence or and Older Rover feels more at home, he wants to cut to the head of the line. So like serious shoppers at a Macy's 12-hour sale, the two dogs rush to grab the toy or to get petted first instead of politely waiting their turn. When neither backs off an altercation involving teeth and skin can ensue.

(Add Cartoon)

Owners often wonder if they should let the dogs duke it out to determine who's the dominant one. In the wild this happens but may involve injuries. And when frequent or severe enough one dog often elects to leave.

As humans we theoretically occupy the top spot on the totem pole so it's our job to decree that family members are not allowed to fight. And because we have a more developed brain, we can do this without exerting force or using pain.

Goal is to teach them that good things happen when they are around each other and especially when they behave politely around each other



Up top now many altercations have been over your attention, Both pushing their way in. **They can only earn your attention by sitting politely instead of rushing around and pushing each other out of the way.**

(ADD cartoon here)

For now avoid all altercations by rewarding alternate appropriate behavior first. And keeping them apart in cases where you aren't 100% sure that you can control them (ie. You don't have treats

ready, there's too much going on in the house) you'll quickly change their habits around each other so that they can once-again get along.

Here's the general approach.

Step 1: Follow the learn to earn protocol (this is just an overview)

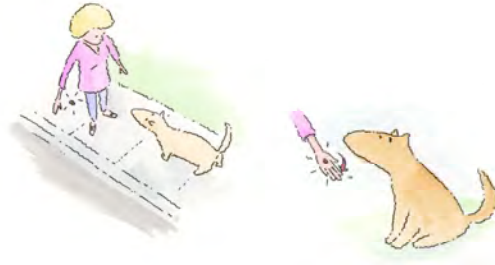
The first line of order is to get the household in control by teaching them to sit politely even when they are maximally excited.



(Refer to the learn-to-earn protocol handout). Then they will sit politely instead of racing around wildling to go through the gate first or to get petted the most.

Specifically plan to give them treats for sit/please in situations where they tend to fight. For instance if they fight when you run up the stairs, practice sit/please at the base of the stairs and then run up halfway and practice there. Start with just one dog and then work with two together when they have the game down individually.

Step 2: Work on leave-it (when food is dropped on the ground). For more complete explanation read HBDB chapter 20 and watch the "leave-it" video on the web) if the dogs fight over dropped food..



The goal is for their habit to be that they never race for dropped food anyway because they have to sit politely and look at you anyway. Make sure that once they have this exercise down in the practice situation, you randomly drop treats in more realistic situations such as when you're [preparing dinner.

Step 3: Come when called (for more go to chapter 19, watch the "come" video—most complete version is in the Treat&train video)

The third exercise for indoors is to bone up on come when called. First practice this with dogs separately and call them only when you know they'll come running or when they're on a leash. To turn convert "come" to a fun game of chase, run the opposite way and give the dogs treats when they catch up.

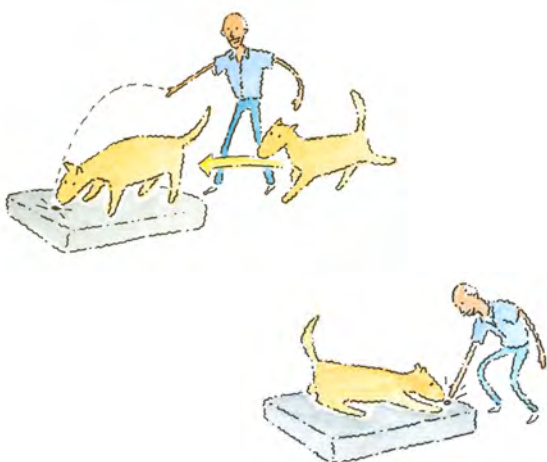


Once you have this down, if you see the dogs tense up or observe that one's getting too rowdy, **call them apart before an altercation erupts. Then engage them in alternate appropriate, fun activities.**





Step 4: Teach at least one to run to a rug and lie there to get treats. You can train this exercise (called “place” “manually” (refer to chapter 23 in HBDB).



But a much easier and more fun way to is using the Treat&Train professional dog training system.

(www.nerdbook.com/sophia/treat&train).

This system uses a remote controlled, treat dispensing device so that now you can reward your dog when he’s far away from you and doing what you want and you don’t have to fumble around for the food!



The program comes with a detailed instructional DVD that takes you step by step though the program—showing you both the correct technique as well as mistakes to avoid. And it contains all of the learn to earn exercises and come when called exercises too.

Once your dog’s knows how to run to his rug, lie down and stay, even with high excitement, then, whenever you think chaos is about to break out, send him to his “place” which he already loves. This rug can be in the same room or a different room in the house. The important part is that he runs to this location and the Treat&Train dispenses his treats at that location so you don’t have to worry about running back and forth with treats.

EXTRA NOTE: To speed the training up even more, you can up it a notch by even ignoring the dogs when they’re apart and only playing these and other fun games with them when they’re together. This will help them learn that the best things in life occur when they’re polite and in the presence of each other.

