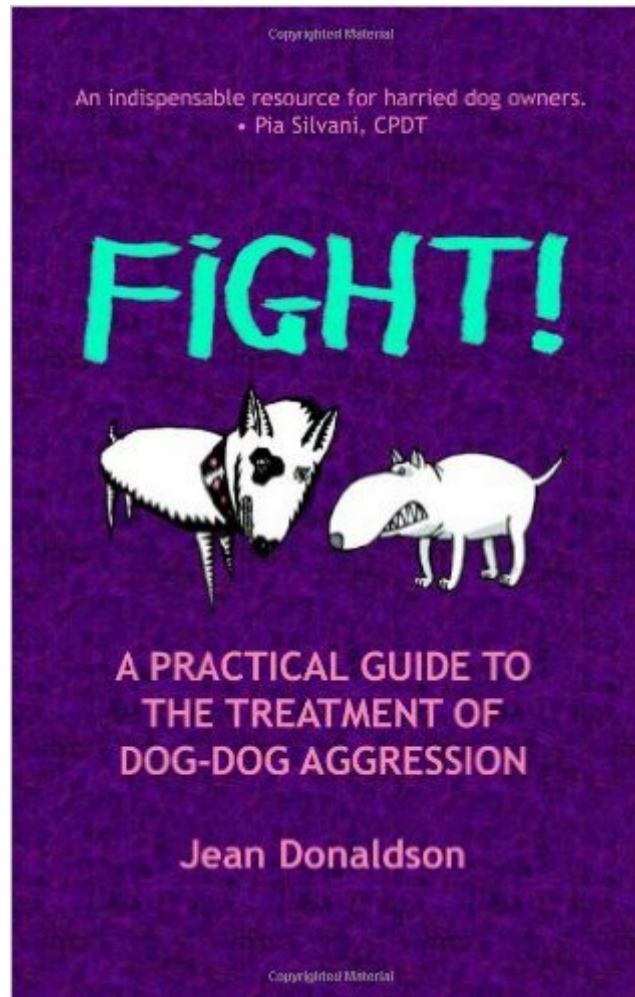


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# Fight!: A Practical Guide To The Treatment Of Dog-dog Aggression



## Synopsis

This down-to-earth manual will teach you how to use behavior modification to retrain a dog that bullies other dogs, or becomes fearful when approached by other dogs. From the award winning author of *The Culture Clash* and *Mine! A Practical Guide to Resource Guarding in Dogs*. Includes descriptions of: Common types of aggression Assessing prognosis Remedial socialization On-leash manners training Proximity sensitivity Play style and skills Resource guarding Prevention

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book has the right approach about positive reinforcement, desensitization, and counterconditioning. However, it really is geared towards a trainer who access to several dogs than for the every day dog owner with dog-on-dog aggression. I was \*so\* disappointed to read that most lessons involved having access to many dogs (3-6) who are well-behaved so that you can socialize your dog to be friendly with them. I simply do not know that many people with dogs. Plus, how are you supposed to ask someone to help you with your aggressive dog? Surely, most folks would be reluctant and not want to risk a fight.

I was stuck with a fear aggressive dog, which is hard as is. Then let's add in the fact he's 80lbs of solid muscle and deaf! I needed help, and thankfully, was working at the SF SPCA, where Jean Donaldson was working, and so I purchased her book. It was a huge help, because up until that point I was lost on what to do, I'd never had a fear aggressive/aggressive dog before, and my deaf boy had been the perfect dog park dog, until he was beat up by two related dogs (and no, they were not pitbulls)- my dog is the pit. He was terrified, and would not fight back, it took several minutes

before I broke it up (other owner was totally oblivious). After a trip to the pet er, he was sutured up, and returned to the park a week later. At that point I noticed cautious/fearful behavior, and when a small dog mounted him, he freaked out. Not knowing how to respond, I made his fear worse, by tightening the leash when we approached dogs. The book gave us HUGE progress! He went from being so scared of any dog he saw, and wanting to kill them a block away, to actually being able to walk past dogs, and/or say a quick hi without a problem. It's taken us a long time, but this book was tremendous help (in fact, more help than our \$500 trainer!)

I bought this to help manage two cranky dogs in my home, and there are several management techniques outlined here I hadn't considered. Simple, easy to follow steps to manage reactivity, and so far, they seem to be working quite well. Definitely recommend this book if you're having even mild (or occasional) issues with aggression/reactivity.

Turns out my dog wasn't mean, just afraid! Once I "got it" , thanks to this book, I tried the behavior modifications the book talked about. My dog is so much better, but still has a long way to go! Just seeing her less tense when walking near other dogs makes this book well worth the price.

As a trainer, I've found that anything by Jean Donaldson is likely to be a source of concise, scientifically sound advice. Her protocols in this small volume are no exception. How she manages to craft this many lessons, with this much information into so small a package is a mystery to me, but it's a mystery from which my students (Pet Parents) have become the fortunate beneficiaries. There are several texts that I consult when writing a dog-specific behavior adjustment program for any dog "with issues", whatever they may be and whatever may have caused them. The beauty of this book is that Ms. Donaldson cuts through "the stuff" and tells the truth...we may NEVER know what caused a particular dog to have issues with humans or other dogs (think a rescue, with no prior history). But if we concentrate on **WHAT THE DOG IS DOING**" as opposed to **WHAT WE SUPPOSE THE DOG MIGHT BE FEELING**, the dog's behavior will inform us every time, and help us find the case-specific solutions to help every dog become a happier, safer family companion. This book is a **MUST** for trainers, and certainly a good read for those who are thinking about consulting a trainer for help with their reactive dog. **FIVE STARS...HECK, SIX**, and highly recommended

The authors of this book know what they're talking about. No sensationalism, just sound advice as

to how to handle situations that arise with every dog one time or another, be it a Chihuahua, Poodle, German Shepherd, Collie, or mutt. Dogs are just like us; they have bad days, they get irritable in the heat, whiny younger dogs or annoying dogs get on their nerves, they get scared when attacked by off leash dogs, any number of reasons to mix it up. This book explains how dogs look like they're fighting when they play and how to recognize when someone gets too wound up and the game gets a little out of hand. It also has great advice for the humans; handle a minor skirmish the wrong way (panicking, screaming) and you could turn it into a genuine fight; they also tell you how to keep from getting nipped yourself when breaking up a fight. For anyone who has more than one dog of any type, or whose dog ever comes in contact with another (and they do) this book is very valuable.

This book is amazing if your dog is within a reasonable aggression range. It has good tips on how to deal with unwanted behavior and is quite smart in it's honest approach. If you have a very dog aggressive animal, however, this book will do little to help except provide a quick comment of a single success story involving a pitbull and a trainer who devoted herself for six months to the dogs' rehabilitation. How that trainer approached the situation is not explained. What caused the success is a mystery. Given that people at their wit's end may purchase this book and hope for an answer, understand that it may not contain what you are hoping.

The author does not describe things well. It's like there are a lot of incomplete and/or run-on sentences and she uses A LOT of behaviorist acronyms, which I am not familiar with and had to keep going back to refer to the original definition. Sometimes she uses several acronyms in a row. Also, I think the explanations are confusing and not realistic. This book would work if you know behavior theory in and out and if you have endless friends with endless dogs of different temperaments to expose your dog to on a regularly scheduled basis. I found it hard to get through and not very cohesive.

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