

Inter pack Fighting

When relationships go wrong we all begin to get concerned and try to help whenever, and wherever we can. But when the relationships between our pets begin to fall apart we feel a little helpless.

Disputes between animals that have previously lived quite amicably can occur for a variety of reasons. Sometimes due to sexual maturity, aging of the dogs or maybe introduction of a new household member such as a baby or long staying visitor can disrupt the harmony within the pack and cause disputes to occur within the pack hierarchy. Bitches can begin to compete especially when seasons are due, as it is in the animals best interest to pass on her own genes to the next generation. If this is the cause of the problem, it maybe sensible to consult with your veterinary surgeon and discuss the options which may include spaying.

With some dogs, particularly males, sexual maturity is the general cause for the behaviour, but this does not automatically mean an immediate trip to the vets to get them all neutered. Neutering can cause as many problems as it solves if the incorrect dog is neutered or if both dogs are neutered simultaneously. Neutering can cause a reduction in the status of the dog within the pack and being able to identify the dog that is capable of holding the position of the top alpha dog, in a sensible and tolerable manner should be generally left entire whilst, the subordinate male is castrated. Always consult with your vet or professional behaviour counsellor. When considering neutering as an option, is important to consider the long-term effects.

Some situations can become untenable. The welfare of individual dogs and the group as a whole should be considered. In a natural environment, disputes would be resolved by the challenger leaving the group to find another pack. In domestic society a sensible solution for the welfare and safety of all concerned, however emotional the ties maybe, rehoming could be the only solution. The Kennel Club can provide a list of every breed rescue group which can assist with the rehoming your specific breed, alternatively speaking with your local pet rescue agency can also help with a difficult situation such as this.