

DSA Dog Aggression Policy

What is aggression?

For the purposes of this policy, dog aggression is an *overt threat* from a dog against another dog or person and/or an attack with contact against another dog/person with the intent to do harm.

Overt threat- is the judgment that if the situation was not quickly changed by the humans (tight leash, movement out of range, etc.), a bite or attack would certainly have taken place.

Injury does not have to occur for staff to deem a dog to be aggressive and the dog's behavior history may be taken into consideration.

What is NOT considered aggression?

Dogs who growl, bark or posture are not necessarily deemed aggressive. Dogs playing rough, barking, mouthing or jumping on people or dogs with no intent to do harm are not deemed aggressive (though the owner may be asked to manage their dog to prevent such behavior). Dogs that are defending themselves from another dog's aggressive threat are not necessarily deemed aggressive.

What happens if there is aggression?

The first thing that must happen is that camp staff is alerted by the witnesses and/or those involved. If not already aware, the Camp Manager must be notified. It is the job of the Camp Manager to immediately interview witnesses and those involved to get the best picture possible of what occurred. A written report of the incident is made and sent with the camp paperwork to the President of DSA after the conclusion of camp. The response to the aggression is determined by the severity of the incident and potential for future risks to others. This can include, but is not limited to, the following actions:

- Verbal notice to the handler to manage the dog more closely and assistance provided including training techniques that can help prevent future issues.
- Dog wears a basket muzzle at all times when not in a crate or private lodging.
- Dog must be removed from the property immediately. The owner/handler is welcome to finish their stay at camp without the aggressive dog but a refund is not issued if the person does not finish their camp stay.

The Camp Manager's decision on the incident is final.