

How to act in case of a fight

We should avoid fights between two or more animals inside and outside the shelter at all cost. It's important to keep in mind that the animals, under the stress of a shelter, may act in a fast and unpredictable way: that's why we should always be alert in order to avoid situations that could result in a fight:

How to prevent a fight **INSIDE** the shelter

1. Do not allow dogs from different cages to be together in the patio area if they do not know each other or if they have never walked together. We should always ask permission from person responsible before entering or opening the door to any area.
2. Use the security fences correctly, ensuring that the doors are securely closed behind us and there are no dogs loose in the area we are entering.
3. Do not give food, treats, or toys to dogs that are in a group.
4. Do not let dogs off the leash in the walking area as they may get into a fight with the dogs inside the cages.
5. Never leave a dog in a cage without being sure it belongs there.

How to prevent a fight **OUTSIDE** the shelter

1. Do not walk dogs from different cages together unless you have been told otherwise.
2. Keep a safe distance when you encounter other dogs during the walk. This means a distance in which the dogs cannot touch.
3. Avoid balls, ropes and other toys during group walks, as well as treats or other food.

What to do in case of a fight

If a fight does occur, we should act in the following way, keeping in mind that our integrity is the PRIORITY and no volunteer is obliged to intervene in any situation that could put him/her in danger:

1. Alert the responsible party as soon as possible so they may act accordingly.
2. Do not yell, as this only raises the stress level of the dogs that are fighting.
3. If there is water nearby, throw it on the dogs to try to break them up.
4. If water doesn't work, do not try to separate the dogs yourself without the help of another person: the stress of the moment may cause the dogs to bite us.
5. Never grab a dog that is being attacked, always try to grab the attacker, being careful not to get injured in the process.
6. In the case of a group fight, in which various dogs are attacking an individual dog, we should try to break up the group among several people.
7. To separate two dogs that are fighting, it is recommendable to grab the attacker by its hind legs and raise them, making the dog lose its balance and release the other dog. However, make sure that in doing this, the dog doesn't turn on you.
8. Never pull on a dog that is biting another one as it may further injure the dog that is being bitten.
9. Once the fight is broken up, separate the animals at a safe distance to prevent them from reacting. When they are calm, examine the dog(s) for injuries with the responsible party, who, if they consider it necessary, will take the dog(s) to the veterinarian.