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CANINE BEHAVIOR CONSULTANT

Stress & Reactivity Thresholds

STRESS

REACTIVITY

BITE Threshold: dog feels like it needs to bite.

OVER Reactivity Threshold: *dog is very stressed and feels unsafe.*

- Dog displays reactive behaviors due to frustration, fear or anger.
- Barking, growling, snarling, snapping, lunging, charging

TRIGGERS
Other dog, "scary" person or object in dog's space.

TRAPPED
On leash, restrained, no escape route. Safety zone/personal space bubble becomes larger.

OVER Reactivity Threshold: *dog is stressed.*

- Intense staring
- Hackles raised
- Rigid, tense posture
- Low growl
- May no longer be responsive to handler
- Uninterested in food

TRIGGERS
Strange environment, unfamiliar surroundings, lots of distractions, chaotic.

LIFESTYLE

- **Not enough physical or mental stimulation, boredom, anxious people, chaotic home environment, small children.**
- **Lack of surrogate activities (play) for biological needs (hunting, scavenging).**
- **Lack of clarity/understanding how to navigate their world (lack of structure, management, training).**

HEALTH
Medical issue, ears, mouth, digestion, age-related aches and pains.

AT Reactivity Threshold: *dog is getting stressed.*

- Slowing down
- Focused eyes
- Ears forward
- Mouth closed
- "Tall dog" posture
- Harder mouth when taking treats

UNDER Reactivity Threshold: *dog is feeling relaxed, safe.*

- Loose body posture
- Soft mouth & ears
- Responsive to handler
- Able to send calming signals
- Able to self-calm
- Interested in food

Out of Training Zone

Training & Behavior Modification Zone