

THE ASSIGNED

seat *Hack*

WHEN to use it

This hack is primarily for the application of slowly re-introducing dogs living in the same household who have had altercations / inter-dog aggression conflicts.

It can also be used proactively in cases of introducing pets to each other slowly when merging households, bringing in new pets, or having canine house guests. It can be very instrumental in helping to clear up miscommunication as well as prevent them from occurring in the first place when individuals might otherwise get off on the wrong foot. But it is NOT for every situation - an experienced behavior consultant should be involved in cases of aggression.

HOW it works

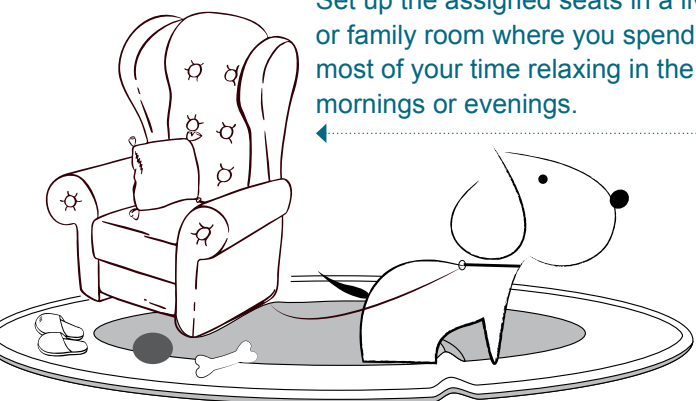
Interactions between social animals (G) can and do occasionally include conflict of one form or another and for artificially selected (G) captive dogs living in forced arbitrary social groups (E) with complex different LEGS, the potential for conflict increases. Dogs can experience misunderstandings, over-reactions, unintentional injury and offense, bad first impressions, lingering hard feelings, etc. just like we can! Conflict can often occur, especially in non-neutral territories where space is limited and

resources are higher (E), between dogs who would otherwise get along just fine.

This hack can prevent conflicts from occurring, escalating and continuing, and help the dogs learn to feel safe (S) with each other from the start, or again (L), as we further demonstrate that we are stable social managers (E).

HOW to use it

Set up the assigned seats in a living or family room where you spend most of your time relaxing in the mornings or evenings.



Practice your assigned seat PATTERN on a daily basis, integrating it into your routine at a time when you would normally be relaxing in that space watching TV, reading, etc. The dogs may be a bit confused at first about what's happening, but repeating it daily normalizes it quickly for cases in which it will work well. Continue to manage the dogs by separating when you are not doing the pattern. Tell the dogs how lovely they are when they are relaxed, ignoring each other, resting, playing with their toys, or signaling nicely to each other.

Secure a chew proof tether to a VERY heavy piece of furniture or an eye hook in a wall/baseboard with a stud.

Make sure the tether position and length are such that the dogs are at least 7ft from each other when at the end of their tethers.

Put a comfy dog bed at each assigned seat and provide special toys/chews to dogs once tethered.

Continue to repeat the pattern daily, GRADUALLY lengthening the tethers until the dogs are able to interact safely at the end of them without becoming tangled and continue to reinforce nice signals/interactions.

If resources are a trigger for conflict and raise tensions, increase arousal, etc. remove resources from dogs.

