

THE DEFENSIVE

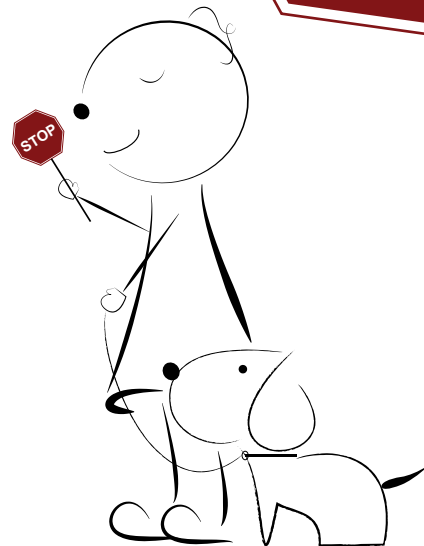
driving Hack

HOW it works

Most dogs (G/S) dislike being approached and fondled by a stranger (E) as much as you would. Showing your dog that you will run interference to protect her from those overbearing strangers (L) can improve her behavior, reduce her anxiety, and build trust in you.

HOW to use it

Whenever you are out and about in the world with your dog, be sure to have your *defensive* radar up so you can proactively protect your dog from any possible intruders to her personal space. Here are some easy things to do:



01 Be a defensive driver when you have your dog on leash.

Whenever someone is approaching or passing you, or you are going to approach or pass someone else, use The *Step-Up Hack* to position yourself between your dog and any strangers. Simply step up next to your dog, sliding your hand up the leash to hold her close as if you were holding a small child's hand, and place yourself between your dog and the person as they or you pass.

This is a "go-between" or "split" that shows your dog you are stepping up, and it makes it much harder for wandering hands to touch your dog.

02 Send clear but polite signals to others to help prevent people helping themselves to your dog or approaching aggressively.

- * Do not make eye contact with people showing interest in your dog.
- * If someone is angling towards you enthusiastically, turn your back towards them.
- * If you are sitting down with your dog, position her away from foot traffic and out of reach (*and sight if possible*) from people. If that isn't possible, you can put your legs between your dog and others.

