

Fargo Moorhead Kennel Club, Inc.

Aggressive Dog Policy

This policy has been developed to help us as kennel club members and instructors in dealing with dogs that have aggression issues. This policy is intended to help these dogs and their owners find a solution to their problem and be able to continue to train and be active, happy members of the community.

Infractions will be assessed to dogs who **purposefully** and **aggressively** (meaning to do harm) lunge at another dog or person. By definition aggression is the appearance of OR actual attack.

Dogs that approach others in a non-aggressive manner are not to be assessed infractions but the owner should be counseled about keeping their dog to themselves during class. The only social interaction amongst dogs in the building should be in puppy kindergarten. After puppy kindergarten playtime is for outside the building and outside of class setting. This does not mean we advise students to be harsh with their dogs, we simply advise them to keep their dog's attention with them and do not allow their dogs to go out toward other dogs in the building.

All students should be informed about this policy at the start of each session. Owners must be notified that social interaction amongst dogs in class is not allowed and should be reserved for playtime outside of class. Any discussion about issues with owners and their dogs should be carried on in a private manner, not in front of the entire class.

First Infraction: (Warning) Report (FMKC Dog Aggression Form) is completed by the instructor and reviewed with the student. Recommendations are made for controlling the behavior. The instructor and owner sign the report and it is then filed with the training director who places a follow up call to the owner to discuss the incident. This first infraction is usually a counseling session to make the owner aware of a problem that they may previously not have been aware of, especially if they are a new dog owner. We want to encourage our students to work through these issues, not sentence them to being removed from classes. If a serious injury or attack occurred, the dog and owner may be removed from class. See form on page 2.

Second Infraction: Same procedure as the first infraction for completing the FMKC Dog Aggression Form. Private training with an advanced training instructor should be recommended. The instructor issuing the infraction and the training director will help with the selection of this private instructor. The owner must be advised that the behavior needs to be addressed as additional infractions may cause dismissal from classes. We must stress to the owner that dismissal from classes is not the solution. We want to avoid this but must also take into consideration the feelings and safety of other class members. We must also stress to the owner that aggression is a zero-tolerance behavior.

Third Infraction: This infraction can mean possible dismissal from Canine Academy classes. FMKC Dog Aggression Form is to be filed regarding the incident and the owner is advised that they may be contacted regarding continuing classes. Depending on the severity of the two previous infractions and the effort of the owner to address the behavior, this may be the owner's final infraction. There will be NO MORE THAN 4 infractions allowed. The training director will have the final decision regarding dismissal from classes.

KEY POINTS:

- Aggressive behavior is treated the same for all dogs regardless of size.
- Instructors and the Training Director cannot discriminate based on dog's size or breed.
- Infractions should not be assessed or avoided based on personal like or dislike of the owner.
- Use CAUTION. Do not confuse with normal dog to dog interaction.
- When aggressive behavior is identified it is our goal to **help** the owner and dog work through the problem.
- Instructors will be notified at the start of each session if their class includes a dog that has previous infractions.

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FMKC DOG AGGRESSION FORM

If an FMKC Instructor becomes aware of any significant act of dog aggression that takes place in association with their class, the FMKC Instructor must investigate the incident and complete this form. The FMKC Instructor must submit this form to the Training Director and/or the Board of Directors within 72 hours of the incident.

Any dog that, in the opinion of the FMKC Instructor, attacks a person or a dog, resulting in an injury or not resulting in an injury, and is believed by that FMKC Instructor to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be asked to leave class. When the dog is asked to leave by the FMKC Instructor pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Training Director and the Board of Directors. The dog may not again be in any FMKC classes.

If you have any questions about this form or about the procedure, contact the FMKC Board of Directors President,

Date: _____

Class: _____

Dog's Name: _____

Breed: _____

Provide a description of the incident, attached more detailed information, dog owner statement, any witness statement or other documentation (if dog owner is unable to be interviewed please explain why: _____

Was there an attack by the dog?

1. Was there an injury to a dog or person? _____

If there was an injury, the FMKC Instructor must request vaccination records for the dog.
Failure to provide records could be conduct for immediate removal from classes.

2. Do you feel that this dog presents a hazard to dog or person? _____

If the answer to 1 and 2 are YES and the answer to 3 is NO, please provide a detailed explanation of why the FMKC Instructor felt the dog was not a hazard.

3. Was dog excused from class? _____

4. Did you inform owner of the FMKC Instructor's decision? _____

Dog Owners Name: _____

Phone: _____

Dog Owners Address: _____

Email Address of Dog Owner: _____

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Signature of Dog Owner: _____ Date _____

Form Completed by (FMKC Instructor): _____

Signature of FMKC Instructor: _____ Date _____

Resolution: _____

Signed by Training director: _____ Date _____

If the Training director is the Class instructor, then the FMKC Board of Directors must make the resolution. The Training director must file a copy with the FMKC BOD President.

If the student disagrees with the resolution, they may bring a complaint to the FMKC BOD.

INFRACTION 1 _____

INFRACTION 2 _____

INFRACTION 3 _____

INFRACTION 4 _____

Adopted by Fargo Moorhead Kennel Club

Date: Passed by GM 3/10/2020