Proper Play Behaviors

- Dogs should take breaks from play.
- Dogs should take turns in play. You should see a “flip-flop” play pattern. One up, one down and reverse. One chases, then the other chases. One pins, then the other pins.
- Dogs should give and take space in play. This is part of the process of taking turns.
- Dogs who are ready to engage in play may display: play bows, happy greetings, helicopter tails
- Dogs should take and respect cues from other dogs when the other dog wants to stop playing.

Improper Play Behaviors

- Hard or rough play without taking a break.
- Hard biting or holding.
- Hard staring/targeting.
- Charging dogs
- Mounting
- Growling/baring teeth

Tips for Diffusing a Dog Fight

- Remain calm
- Have a leash ready
- Never grab dogs by neck or collar - they can easily redirect in the heat of the moment and bite a human.
- Grab rear legs and pull dogs apart.
- Make some noise, high-pitch sound, clapping to snap the dogs out of their squabble.
- Use a nearby hose with water to get the dog’s attention.
- Use a barrier to separate dogs, a piece of board, chair etc.
- PREVENTION! Know your dog! Understand canine body language and stress indicators. Stop the fight before it happens!

We offer classes from Puppy Preschool to Therapy Dog International taught by certified trainers.
To learn more, or to sign up for classes, visit us at:
www.animalprotective.org/canine-academy

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