



I have designed a comprehensive course with you and your dog in mind. Below is a list of the modules and a description of what each will include. Each module will include a video teaching session and one or more activities to help you integrate the lesson topic.

Modules will open one per week, each Monday, until the end of the course. The last module is scheduled to open on December 24th. Do your best to keep up with each week's lesson, but if you get behind, avoid the temptation to skip around. Please continue the lessons in order.

I look forward to our weekly sessions together!

Module 1: The Gap

Everyone has a Gap. Most people had a list of behaviors and attributes they wanted in their dog. Then there comes the reality of what they have with their dog. Some Gaps are smaller than others. Owners of an aggressive dog usually have a much larger Gap. Acknowledging and bridging The Gap are vital if you are truly going to understand and, ultimately, help your dog.

Module 2: Learning Theory

Understanding how dogs learn is one key to helping your dog. My philosophy is based on science, not opinion. We need to understand that the behavior of all dogs is lawful and predictable.

Module 3: The Nuts and Bolts of Aggression

There is a purpose for aggression. We need to better understand what our dog needs; Why are they acting aggressive? What is their goal? Once we understand the purpose of aggression, we will know how to help. We need to let go of our emotional attachment to unwanted behavior in order to really start helping our dogs.

Module 4: The Blame Game

I share my personal story of living with an aggressive dog, one I adopted as a puppy. The dog was biting or threatening my children, and he bit my husband. How could this be? I trained him, I socialized him, I did everything right. The reality that you can do everything right and still struggle with aggression was a turning point for me. Owners are blamed all the time by themselves, by rescues and by breeders, and it is my experience and belief that owners are not to blame.

Module 5: Communication & Canine Body Language

Communicating with your dog is a two-way street. It is our responsibility to learn and understand how dogs communicate because they don't speak English. They need training, but they also need us to understand what they are "saying".

Module 6: Trigger Stacking

Humans and dogs can be trigger stacked. Trigger stacking will lower our thresholds and cause a more intensified reaction. The same will happen to your dog. Most people don't understand or appreciate the effect of trigger stacking. We often hear, "It came out of nowhere" or "We don't know what caused him to react." Understanding trigger stacking will enable you to keep your dog safe, as well as lower the aggressive incidents.

Module 7: Bite Pathology

How a dog bites, where on the body a dog bites, and what damage was done is hard to talk about, and it can be embarrassing. It is a vital piece of knowledge when we are working with aggressive dogs. Our best indicator of future behavior is past behavior.

Module 8: Your Bank Accounts: Financial & Emotional

Most of us do not have a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. We need to understand and honor our financial bank account. How much money can we spend on our dog's behavior? In addition to finances, we have an emotional bank account. Denise has a trademark question she'll ask you to help you determine your emotional bank account.

Module 9: Living with Aggression

Can you live with your dog's aggression? How do we decide? What have other people done? How do I manage my dog to keep her and everyone else safe?

Module 10: What are Your Options?

Each family and individual is different. Our tolerances are different. Families with children must put the children's safety first. We also need to consider the well-being of our dogs. We'll discuss which aggression is "fixable" and what the prognosis is. What are your options if the aggression is serious? What are your options if you are struggling? It's not all doom-and-gloom. I will share case studies from clients who have dealt with aggression and what their outcomes were.

Module 11: What's Next?

In this module we'll wrap it all up and find out where we are going next.