

Which Class Does My Dog Need: **Get Control! or Reactive?**



Reactivity and impulsiveness usually go hand in hand. The reason for this is the arousal level. You may start with a dog who just gets super excited when you are ready to leave the house for a walk and end up with a crazed maniac lunging at the end of the leash. While this isn't a fool proof guide, it's always best to talk to a trainer for an evaluation so we can make sure you are in the appropriate class for the first time. Not only will that save you money, you will also get the right help the first time! Please feel free to text a short video to Heather Huff @ 330-717-0635 or email heather@dogsmartzunleashed.com and she can direct you on the right path for you and your dog!

So, how do you know which class you should take?

Get Control! is for dogs who are:

- Easily excitable/hyper
- Chasing animals or anything that catches their attention
- Stealing food and other items from the counter, the trash or anywhere else that's usually off limits
- Rushing out the door, quickly snatching dropped items, can't sit/stay or down/stay for long periods of time, etc.
- Mouthing or barking/whining * to get attention or after waiting too long for treat/food/toy, unwanted jumping on people, etc.
- Leash-pullers (e.g. barking/whining* and lunging at the end of the leash)to get closer to another dog or a person, jumping up and trying to break free, etc. Also, you cannot easily obtain your dog's attention.

*This bark/whine is usually high-pitched and prevents your dog's whole body from keeping still. They shimmy closer to you and move with you if you move. Generally, their attention is hyper-focused on you or what they are trying to get (toy, food, treat, etc.).

Reactive Dog Class is for dogs who:

- Look aggressive, on or off leash, with a deep bark/growl/snarl and lunge at people or other dogs/animals as if attacking
- Has bitten, nipped or snapped at another dog, animal or person
- Cannot attend daycare or dog parks
- Cannot play with unknown dogs and/or has very limited dog friends
- Have been in or almost in a fight with a known or unknown dog
- Have outbursts triggered by movement and/or sound of another animal, person or object (excluding thunderstorm or fireworks phobias)
- Barking is low/deep with their body weight pitched forward

NOTE: IF your dog plays well with other dogs while off leash (parks, daycare, home, etc.) but is a completely different dog on leash (aggressively barks, growls or snarls), your dog is **leash reactive** and reactive class is likely the class you need.

Again, please feel free to text a short video to Heather Huff @ 330-717-0635 or email heather@dogsmartzunleashed.com and she can direct you on the right path for you and your dog!