

Defensive Handling

Defensive Handling creates distance AND turns the dog's back to the distraction. Use these strategies anytime there is an unknown dog off-leash, wildlife is sited, or there is a person, dog, or moving thing that may cause stress or anxiety to your dog in which creating space is your best option to help your dog remain calm.

UH-OH: Walk forward with your dog and say, "Uh-Oh." Hustle, jogging backwards a few paces. Once your dog has turned and is facing you, mark "yes" and reward. Continue to feed your dog while distraction walks by. Practice this 6-8X.

Pull-off or L-turn. This can be used anytime you want to pull off the sidewalk or curb to make space for those passing by, or create space for your dog.

- Walk forward with your dog and say, "Uh-Oh". Once your dog has turned and is facing you, make a 90 degree (L- turn) to pull off to the side of the path. Mark and Reward once L turn is complete. The reward can be in the form of a scatter, in which you toss 5-10 treats on the ground for your dog to find. Practice 6-8X.

180 or Get out of Dodge This strategy is used when you need to create distance quickly, get out of dodge. For example, you see moose while hiking or a trigger that will send your dog into a barking/lunging machine in which a pass-by is not an option.

- Walk forward with your dog and say, "Uh-Oh." Hustle, jogging backwards a few paces. Once your dog has turned, you will pivot 180 degrees left or right. Once your pup is at your side in heel position, walking away from the distraction, mark and reward. Practice 6-8X.