

Chasing

It's important to remember that chasing other dogs and animals is normal for our dogs.

Chase is a wonderful game dogs love to play; it's instinctual, especially for breeds such as sighthounds and herding breeds. We can even use this natural drive to chase in much of our training with dogs. However, if you need to curb this behaviour because your dog is chasing small pets or wildlife, there are several things you can do.



Work on impulse control exercises, as well as teaching your dog to offer alternative behaviours to chase. Using high-value treats and keeping your pup on leash ensures they don't have the opportunity to engage in chase as it's very self-rewarding. Once your pup can remain calm when people, other pets or wildlife begin to run, you can give her a longer leash! You can also play games such as tug and fetch to engage your dog's attention and discourage them from chase.

Curbing this natural behaviour can be difficult and takes some time. Don't be discouraged if a young pup has a hard time staying focused on you, just keep up with your training and consider joining a group class that may help improve your dog's ability to focus even with distractions.

