



# Pet Sitter Consults: How to Care for Challenging Dogs

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## Pet Sitting for Challenging Dogs

As a pet sitter, you probably provide care for a wide range of dogs, and you have probably encountered dogs who have behavior challenges. You may have worked with dogs who are fearful of new people, who lunge and bark at other dogs while you're walking them, or who are afraid to leave the house or get into a car. Providing your pet sitting services can be a big challenge when you have challenging dogs!

## Pet Sitter Concerns

Most pet sitters share some common concerns.

1. How do I make sure I am safe with dogs I've just met and don't know well?
2. How do I walk a dog who barks, lunges and growls when they see other dogs?
3. How do I help a dog who can't settle down?
4. What do I do for a dog who hides in the corner and growls at me when I come near?

## Who We Are

At Challenging Dogs Pet Care, we specialize in providing boarding, sitting, daycare and walking services for dogs who have all these behavior challenges and more. We work with dogs who are extremely fearful of new people or who react in a hostile way to other dogs. We provide care to dogs who are afraid to go outside, or who have a history of snapping or biting when a harness or leash must be put on or attached. We use only reward-based approaches and do not punish or use aversive equipment.

## How We Can Help You

Like most pet sitters, Challenging Dogs staff have considerable experience in dog care, but we add to that experience with an expanded knowledge of working with challenging dogs. We can help you feel safer when meeting new dogs, be able to better address the behavior challenges you encounter and potentially find new clients for your services.

The consulting services we provide are listed on the next page.

Email Susan Aceti at  
[saceti@challengingdogs.com](mailto:saceti@challengingdogs.com)  
for more information or to  
request a consultation.



## Consulting Packages

## Details

## Cost

Consulting Packages	Details	Cost
<b>30-minute Zoom call to identify issues</b>	Fill out a short form before the call to summarize the issues you want to address. Participate in a half hour call to review the issues.	\$45
<b>Two-, three- or five-hour package</b>	Schedule additional Zoom calls for personalized consultation about issues with clients or to increase your knowledge about a particular topic.	\$160 \$240 \$400
<b>Staff Training</b>	Virtual training for you and/or your staff. Includes pre-training assessment of baseline knowledge, 2-hour training via Zoom with exercises and practice and follow-up on how the training impacted your practices. If needed, additional consultation packages can be purchased after the training.	\$575

Consulting Topics		Details
<b>1</b>	Getting to Know Reactive or Fearful Dogs	Preparing and arriving for the first visit, conducting visits in a non-threatening way, using treats effectively, taking breaks, coming in and leaving, and scheduling strategies.
<b>2</b>	Dog Body Language	Dog body language 101 and how to apply it to getting to know a new dog, and sitting, boarding, and walking situations.
<b>3</b>	Walking Reactive Dogs	The three lines of defense: avoidance, distraction, and the gold standard: teaching a dog to choose to turn away from another dog (or other scary thing)
<b>4</b>	Addressing Specific Fears	The slow, incremental process of helping a dog overcome specific fears such as going in or out of a house or vehicle, having a harness or leash put on or attached through small steps towards the end goal and big rewards for progress.
<b>5</b>	General techniques for reducing fear, anxiety, and stress	Enrichment practices and timing, when to walk and when not to walk, white noise machines and music, respecting personal boundaries.