

Loehr Animal Behavior

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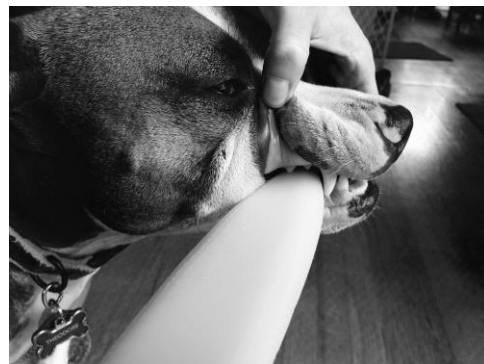


How to use a break stick

A break stick is used for parting a dog's jaws if you are unable to get him to let go using standard methods (spraying water or citronella spray, using a compressed air horn, banging metal bowls together). Ideally, you will have a second handler to pull the other animal away once the grip is released.

1. Grasp the gripping dog by the collar or scruff of the neck.
2. Put a leg over the dog, with one foot on either side of the dog's waist, holding with your lower leg or knees to prevent the dog from twisting around and redirecting on you.

3. Insert the stick behind the dog's canine teeth as shown, wiggling it to get as far into the mouth as possible. (**Do NOT put your other hand near the dog's mouth** – I'm just holding my dog's lips so that you can see the correct stick placement.)



4. Rotate the stick toward you - the twisting movement should release the grip. You may need to work the stick back and forth to get the right angle.

5. Hold the dog in the position shown below (knees locked around dog's waist, holding collar or scruff) until the other animal has been secured, to minimize the possibility of redirected bites.



Our hand-crafted break sticks are occasionally available for sale to dog professionals and shelters only.