

MARKING & WHY we don't allow it!

Dogs communicate by scent

- Urine
- Feces
- Anal Glands
- Pheromones
- Individual Scents

Olfactory (Nose) Sense is 1,000,000 more sensitive than ours, and can be more in scent hounds, such as Bloodhounds, Bassets, Beagles. Smell is VERY IMPORTANT to a dog.

Dogs do not habituate smells...they don't get used to a smell like we do. They will be able to distinguish the scent, no matter how long they are exposed to it. AND they can separate scents, where humans blend scents.

What is MARKING?

Marking is where a dog scent-marks to show residency/ownership, status/hierarchy, and sexual readiness/maturity.

Different types of Marking:

- Raised leg/"leg lift"
- Over-marking (sprinkle a little here, there, and everywhere)
- Ground-scratching (often seen before a scuffle- accompanied by stiffness, tall posture, scorpion tail.)
- Anal gland secretion (Squat and drip)

The Importance of NOT ALLOWING Marking:

NONE of these 3 things have a place in our play groups.

- **Residency/Ownership** is Territorial Dominance, which leads to Territorial Aggression.
- **Status/Hierarchy** position diminishes the role and importance of the human pack leader and leads to problems in group.
- **Sexual Readiness/Maturity** increases arousal level/instability, just like it would with humans at the senior prom.

When should we allow marking?

NEVER. Dogs should pee to completely empty their bladders, not just sprinkle/mark all over the yard.

Marking can be viewed as a DISTANCE-INCREASING Behavior. In that case, you have at least 2 problems:

1. Stop the marking.
2. Return the dog and the pack to stability.