

From: <http://www.leerburg.com/dogfight.htm>

Unless you have a lot of experience do not try and break up a dogfight by yourself. Never step in the middle and grab them by the collar to stop a dogfight. If you try this, the chances of you being badly bitten are extremely high. Animals in the middle of a fight are in survival drive. When you charge in and grab them they either react out of a fight reflex and bite, or they see you as another aggressor. When they are in fight or flight they will bite you.

**The safest way to break up a dogfight requires 2 people.** Each person grabs the back feet of one of the dogs. The dog is picked up like a wheelbarrow. With the legs up, both dogs are then pulled apart. Once they break apart, it is critical that the people do not release the dogs or the fight will begin again. They need to start turning in a circle, or slowly swinging the dogs in a circle while they back away from the other dog. This stops the dog from curling and coming back and biting the person holding their legs.

By circling the dog, the dog has to sidestep with its front feet or it will fall on its chin. As long as you slowly continue to back and circle, the dog cannot do any damage to you. To insure that the fight will not begin all over again when you release the dogs, one of the dogs needs to be dragged into an enclosure (i.e. a kennel, the garage, another room) before the dog is released. If they do not do this, the dogs will often charge back and start fighting again.

Dogfights are a very dangerous thing to try and break up alone. You should never rush in and try and grab the dogs to pull them apart. They are in high "fight drive" and are not thinking clearly when fighting. If someone grabs them they will bite without even thinking about who or what they are biting. The worst case scenario is that you are alone when a serious fight breaks out. There are a couple things that you must keep in mind:

- Keep your cool you have a job to do
- Do not waste time screaming at the dogs. It hardly ever works.
- Your goal is still the same; you must break up the fight without getting hurt.
- Go get a leash (allow the fight to continue while you do this).
- Dogs are almost always locked onto one another. Walk up and loop the leash around the back loin of the dog by either threading the leash through the handle or use the clip. I prefer the thread method.
- Now slowly back away and drag the dog to a fence or to an object that you can tie the leash to. By doing this, you effectively create an anchor for one of the dogs.
- Then walk around and grab the back legs of the second dog and drag it away from the dog that is tied up. Remember to turn and circle as they release.
- Drag the dog into a dog pen or another room before you release the back legs.
- Go back and take the dog off the fence and put him or her into a dog kennel.

The bottom line on dogfights is that unless you are trained it is best to never step into the middle of them. In the worst case, let them fight. It may result in death or severe injury to one of the dogs, but it's not worth the damage it could cause to you if you make a mistake trying to end the fight.

**Although it is sometimes effective ... according to the author of this article, using a hose and squirting water on the dog is simply not going to work on very hard, very tough working dogs.**

Other Reference: <http://www.leerburg.com/dogfight.htm>  
[http://doglinks.co.nz/problems/barry\\_place/break\\_fight.htm](http://doglinks.co.nz/problems/barry_place/break_fight.htm)  
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/animals/DogFights.asp>

Other recommendations from various websites included: pepper spray aimed directly in dog's nose; ammonia (smelling salts) directly in dog's nose; blanket soaked with ammonia diluted with water thrown over the face/head of the fighting dog.