

2024 Reactive Rover FAQ

Reactive Rover (RR) is a two level program. The first level is history taking/review and evaluation. The second level is an introduction to training/RR workshop and eight, one-hour classes. Please read this FAQ carefully before you register for the history review/evaluation segment.

The intent of RR is to introduce specific foundation skills to you and your dog that will help you to better manage your dog's behavior when in the presence of other dogs, improve your dog's impulse control and focus, and modify your dog's reaction to other dogs when on leash in public.

Please note. I send the history forms as Word documents. If you cannot open and modify Word Documents, please contact me. Set ups for the evaluation and the classes require access to a cell phone, text messaging, email, and Word, OpenOffice, or LibreOffice word processing applications.

General information

I'm Lee Livingood, the instructor for the Reactive Rover program. I have nearly 30 years of professional experience working with dog behavior challenges with concentration on aggression.

I rely on positive reinforcement and fear-free training methods. I base my methods on scientifically supported techniques. I do rely on food, praise, and rewards.

Redfern doesn't allow prong, pinch, choke or shock collars or any other training equipment that relies on pain to affect a change in behavior. No retractable/Flexi style leashes.

Program Information

RR is a program for dogs who react inappropriately to other dogs when they are on leash in public or in controlled settings like a class. **It is not a program for dogs who are aggressive to humans or for dogs who have bitten or attacked other dogs.** Dogs who are reactive or aggressive toward humans or dogs who have attacked or bitten other dogs need one-on-one behavior programs tailored to their needs.

Our RR program focuses on reactivity—dogs that bark, lunge and otherwise go crazy when they see another dog or another dog approaches. It does not address dog-dog aggression among dogs in your home or off-leash aggression involving known or unknown dogs.

The program does not address dog reactivity in uncontrolled settings like your back yard, in your home when dogs are passing by, or in doggie day care or boarding situations. The focus and self control exercises we introduce may help with those issues, but isn't the goal of this program.

Each class is limited to a maximum of four dogs.

Part One Evaluation

After you register, I'll send you a behavior history packet in Word format. I send the packets approximately ten days prior to your evaluation date. I'll indicate the date by which you need to return the completed forms along with a short video of your dog's behavior (details will be in your history packet), and a photo or scanned copy of your dog's vaccination record.

NOTE: If I don't receive your history forms by the due date, I will cancel your evaluation.

The evaluation fee is non-refundable. I immediately terminate the in-person session if your dog is reactive to or aggression toward a human. That means that your dog must be able to approach and interact with me or an associate in a safe manner.

The consult/evaluation is limited to the handler and one other person who resides in the home with your dog or spends significant time with your dog.

Children under age 16 may not attend the evaluation or the classes. No one under 18 may handle the dog in class or for the evaluation.

If we both feel the course is a good fit for you and your dog, you'll get a password that will allow you to register for the workshop/classes

Your evaluation is valid for a Reactive Rover class beginning within 6 mo of an appropriate evaluation. If you haven't started your course within that time frame, we may require a new evaluation.

Part Two Introduction/Workshop/Classes

Before you register for the class, please check your calendar so you can plan to attend every class. Each week builds on the previous week and toward the next week.

The workshop/introductory session is mandatory. It lasts approximately two hours. The workshop is without dogs. The workshop limited to two people who live with or routinely care for your dog.

During the workshop/seminar and class sessions I'll discuss factors that contribute to reactivity and introduce skills that, with time and effort, will enable you to help your dog control their response to dogs they encounter when on leash or in controlled situations. It is not a magic cure-all that will result in your dog adoring every dog they see. The objective is to introduce skills that will lead to a better walking experience with your dog.

Following the workshop, there are eight, one-hour group classes with you and your dog. Only two adult handlers may attend the classes.

Costs/Fees

The fee to register for the history review and evaluation is \$50. **It is non-refundable.**

Registering for the history review/evaluation does not obligate you to register for part two—the workshop and classes.

The fee for the workshop and classes is \$350. After completing the evaluation, if we agree that the RR class is right for you and your dog, you'll receive a link to register. The fee for the RR workshop and class sessions is non-refundable after the workshop/seminar begins. Please see Redfern's refund policy for details.

I do not allow the use of prong, choke/slip, or e-collars in class or for training. Please do not apply/register if you use or intend to use these tools.

If you need additional information, please contact me.

Lee Livingood

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