



TRIGGER STACKING

WHEN BEHAVIOUR HAPPENS - "OUT OF THE BLUE"

WHEN DOGS BEHAVE OUT OF CHARACTER
LOOK AT TRIGGERS THAT MAY HAVE
STACKED UP BEFOREHAND

A trigger could be anything that increases a dog's stress level - even if it seems insignificant to us.

The more triggers that build up the greater the chance of what seems like an "out of the blue" reaction.

TRIGGER STACKING AVOIDED

- Monday - a strange man is fixing the inside plumbing
- Wednesday - another dog lunges/growls on a walk
- Thursday - the garbage truck makes scary noises
- Sunday - a child pets the dog's head and hugs him

Each of these events caused stress levels to rise, but as time had passed in between the events, stress hormones had time to decrease - and trigger stacking was avoided.

TRIGGER STACKING ACTIVATED

- Thursday - a strange man is fixing the inside plumbing
- Later that day - the garbage truck makes scary noises
- That afternoon - another dog lunges/growls on a walk
- That evening - a child pets the dog's head and hugs him - the dog lunges and snaps at the child

These events occurred over a short period of time and triggers stacked up, stress hormones kept increasing - resulting in the seemingly "out of the blue" behaviour.