

Wendy the Wanger

I don't hate ball launchers, it's nice to be able to chuck a ball without being covered in slobber, mud or both. But walks should be about so much more than this. Floss has a problem, with balls, she's obsessed.

She's also super, super fit as Wendy has unwittingly built an athlete who will continue to need ever more physical outlet.

Wendy should look at ways to enrich Floss' life so that the walk and most importantly the Wanger doesn't become all consuming.

What can she try instead?

Training both at home and out and about, will give Floss an alternate focus, tire her mind which aids physical relaxation and rest. I think Floss would enjoy being taught a range of games at home that don't involve balls, and a nice *Settle*.

Wendy should watch carefully for signs of over arousal, keep Training and Play sessions short and sweet and teach Floss a consistent cue that indicates when it's 'Game Over'.

Zoe the Zombie

Number 1. you need to advocate for your dog and that sometimes means speaking up and letting people like Zoe know that her dog's behaviour is causing nuisance could lead to distress and potentially cause injury.

You don't need to be rude but walking up and having a chat could be enough for her to think about what's going on. Here's some of the points you could try to get across:-

1. Yes I can see he's friendly, that's great but he can be over enthusiastic and doesn't seem to realise when to stop hassling some dogs who don't want to play.
2. I understand he's young but he's pretty rough and sometimes he jumps up at people as well as dogs, which can feel
3. Your dog could easily be bitten by another dog.

If that doesn't work you can try chucking tasty treats towards Zoe's dog while shouting for Zoe to come and get him.

Zoe's can be a pain, and sometimes it's hard to speak up but enough people give them the same message it may get through.

Mike the Meerkat

Yes! There is hope for Mike. It might be a slow old road, but he can get Lily to a place where they can both relax more, enjoy a greater range of walks and Mike can even get a lie in.

One of the most common emotions in these types of cases is overwhelm. Feeling like the problem is so large and so complex can seem an impossible mountain to climb. You don't know where or how to start. So you don't.

First Mike needs to know that he is not alone, so many dog owners are dealing with reactivity to some degree. So Mike can reach out, research and realise that there are lots of sources out there of support and education. <http://careforreactivedogs.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1633448230248202/>

Mike would really benefit from professional help a through analysis, behaviour modification plan and a step by step, safe, supervised programme.

It's not easy but it is do-able. Lily may never be entirely comfortable in certain situations and we may not fully eradicate all her Triggers. It is though possible to reduce her reactions, increase her thresholds and enrich both their lives in the process.

Lastly Mike should give himself a break, and a lie in immediately by hiring a secure field where Lily can run off lead and he can relax. <http://dogwalkingfields.co.uk/>