



Responding to Activists

STEPS FOR HANDLING CONFRONTATION AT AN EXHIBITION OR EVENT

Proudly show our practices are best practice	Regardless of the risk of confrontation, every exhibitor should proudly uphold the standards expected of us loving dog owners and members of DOGS NSW and present our dogs and ourselves positively.
Advise the show or trial manager. Call 000 if needed.	Advise the event manager if you believe activists are present and they will advise the local police. If activists create a disruption or confrontation, call 000 immediately. If you call 000, clearly articulate the risk that the activists are posing: to yourself and others, the dogs' welfare, personal and venue property, etc
Do not engage	Do not engage directly. Keep calm, even if provoked and keep your distance, if possible.
Ask them to leave	If activists enter the area you are using to house your dogs, speak with them politely to ask them to leave. Acknowledge their right to state their opinions in a lawful manner, but ask that they respect your right to continue to look after your dogs' welfare in a safe manner without distress. Ask them to please leave the area and move to a space away from the dogs. They may not respond to the request, but it will make it clear they do not have permission to be there. Do not engage with them further.
Move yourself and your dogs to a safer position	Your safety and welfare, and that of your dogs comes first. If activists won't leave, relocate to an area that is safer for you and your dogs.
Create a record	Video footage and photos taken on your phone of the above can be used by police. If there has been damage to property record the details and, if possible, wait until police have examined the scene before touching anything. Please always consider the safety of yourself and dogs, when confronted with activists.