

# **Aggressive behaviour in Akita Inu and American Akita dogs – a survey study**

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## **Summary**

The objective of this study was to investigate public opinion regarding incidents of aggressive behaviour exhibited by dogs of the Akita Inu and American Akita breeds toward their owners, unfamiliar individuals, other dogs, and animals of different species. The frequency and circumstances under which such incidents occur were determined. It can be concluded from the survey that both Akita Inu and American Akita dogs exhibit a tendency toward aggressive behaviour. This propensity is influenced not only by genetic predisposition but also by the environment in which the dogs are raised—particularly their level of socialization and training. These are breeds have a strongly dominant and territorial temperament, showing a pronounced tendency to defend their owner, territory, and hierarchical status at all costs. The data revealed that aggressive behaviours were observed more frequently in the Akita Inu. Specifically, 13.4% of respondents reported observing aggressive behaviours in Akita Inu dogs, compared to 6.5% for American Akitas. In the vast majority of cases, the primary targets of aggression in both breeds were other dogs (57% for American Akitas and 74.6% for Akita Inus). In contrast, aggression toward unfamiliar people was less commonly reported for Akita Inus (12.7%) and more frequently for American Akitas (22.9%). Stressful situations were a nearly equally common trigger for aggression in both breeds. In contrast, Akita Inu dogs more frequently exhibited premeditated aggression and aggression in self-defence or, especially, in protection of their owner or a specific object.

**KEY WORDS: American Akita, Akita Inu, aggressive behaviour**