



Module 09: Human-Animal Interactions

Urban EcoLab

May 2021

Dog Body Language

Center for Urban Resilience

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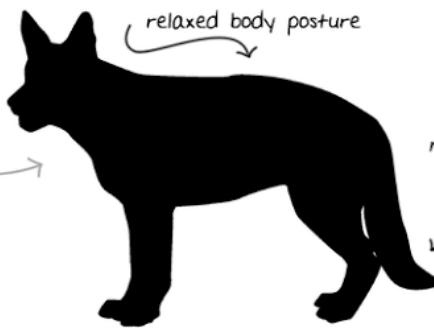
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DOG TO ENGLISH TRANSLATION CHART

This is the dog you'll want to pet. He's calm, neutral, and relaxed. There is no tension in his body and he's probably panting happily and waiting for you to come over and just say "hi".



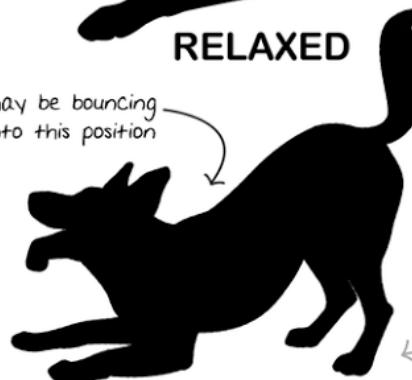
CALM & NEUTRAL

It's usually safe to pet a relaxed dog, but make sure he hasn't fallen asleep!



RELAXED

may be bouncing
into this position



PLAYFUL

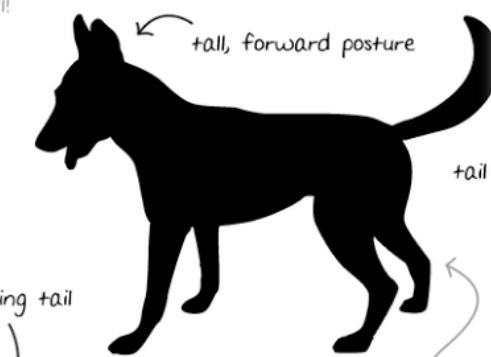
The Play Bow

ears forward



ALERT

"Oh, please, throw
the ball!"



DOMINANT

Toward another dog
"I'm in charge!"



EXCITED

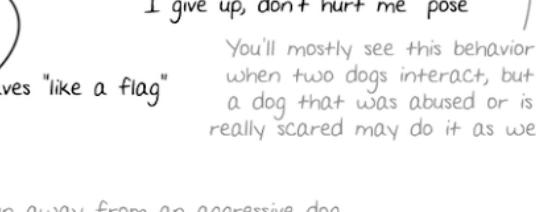
An overly excited dog may jump up, knock you over, scratch you with his paws, or even nip you with his teeth.



SUBMISSIVE

"I give up, don't hurt me" pose

You'll mostly see this behavior when two dogs interact, but a dog that was abused or is really scared may do it as well.



AGGRESSIVE

Don't run away from an aggressive dog.
Stand still ("be a tree") and look away.

Body Language of Fear in Dogs



Slight Cowering



Major Cowering

More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips
when no food nearby



Panting
when not hot or thirsty



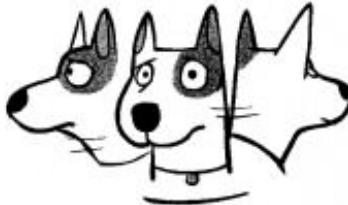
Brow Furrowed, Ears to Side



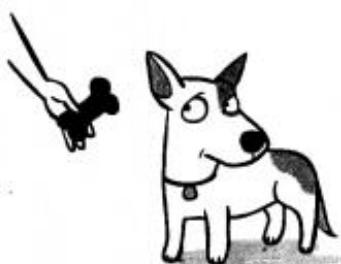
Moving in Slow Motion
walking slow on floor



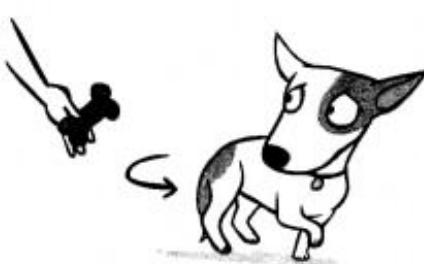
Acting Sleepy or Yawning
when they shouldn't be tired



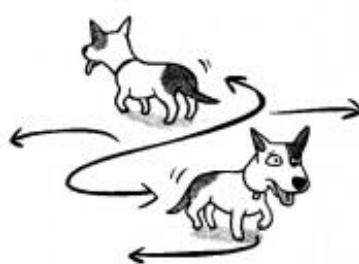
Hypervigilant
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing

TALKING DOG

Dogs communicate using body language more than they do vocally. Here's a quick guide to get a good idea of what your dog is telling you. Look at the whole of the dog: head, face, body and tail to get a more accurate idea of what the dog is saying.

FEARFUL / ANXIOUS / STRESSED

In all cases, respect the dogs need for space and offer signs of appeasement and peace: See the Doggy Dos and Don'ts poster

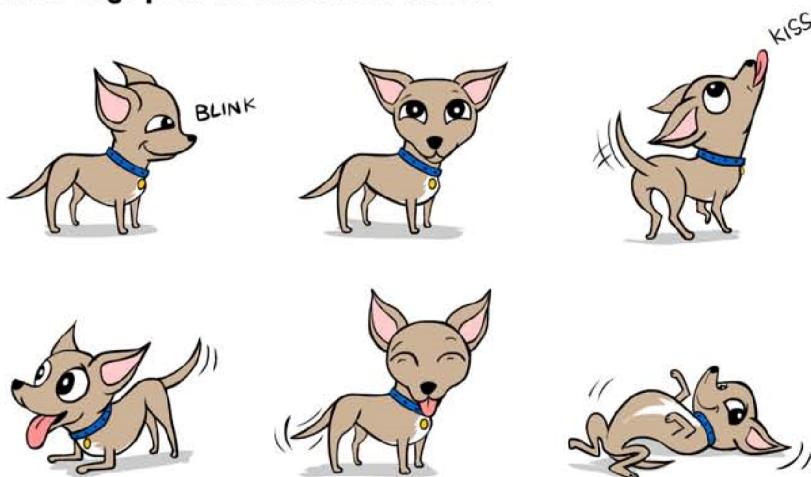


If not read correctly, stress, anxiety and fear often lead to behaviour commonly termed "aggressive", as the dog attempts to make it clearer that they are uncomfortable: raised hackles are a sign of fear:

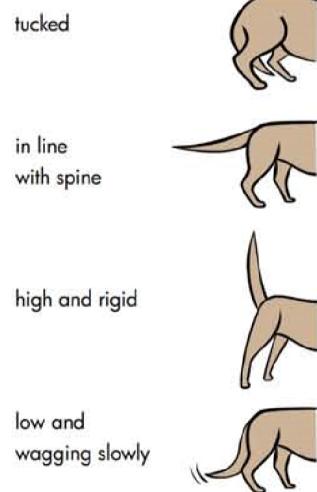


CONTENT / HAPPY / SOCIAL

These dogs pose no immediate threat.



TAIL POSITIONS



TAIL POSITIONS



HOW TO UNDERSTAND YOUR DOG'S BODY LANGUAGE

STARRING **RUSTY THE DOG** 



WHAT THE HECK
WAS THAT?
(SUSPICIOUS)



LET'S GO!
(ALERT)



OH NO YOU DIDN'T!
(ANGRY)



I'M IN NEED OF A SPA DAY
(STRESSED)



HE SAID WHAAT?
(CURIOS)



PUPPIES, KITTENS
AND RAINBOWS!
(OVERJOYED)



I'M TRYING TO
SHAKE IT OFF
(STRESS RELEASE)



BECAUSE I'M HAPPY
(HAPPY)



YOU ARE MY QUEEN
(RESPECT)



I AM NOT VIBING
WITH THIS
(THREATENED)



I NEED MY MOMMY
(ANXIOUS)



STAY OUT OF MY BUBBLE
(NEED SPACE)



I'M IN CHILL MODE
(RELAXED)



LET'S BE BFFs
(FRIENDLY & POLITE)



YEAH, YOU'RE
PRETTY COOL
(FRIENDLY)



I'VE ONLY GOT PUPPY
EYES FOR YOU
(PRETTY PLEASE)



GOOD MORNING,
MY WONDERFUL MAMA
(HELLO, I LOVE YOU)



GIRL, WHERE'S
MY CHOW?
(FEED ME)



YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH THE
BEST HUMAN EVER
(CONTENT)



OH MY GOSH, I LOVE YOU.
OH MY GOSH, LIKE SO MUCH!
(I LOVE YOU, DON'T STOP)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

sheknows

