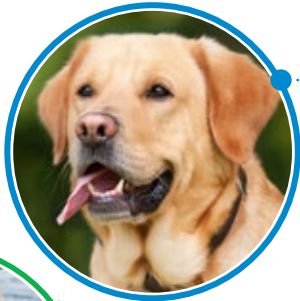
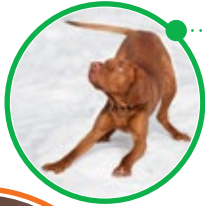
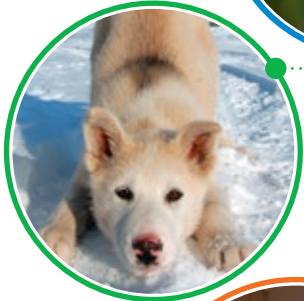


Dogs Body Language Quick Cheat Sheet



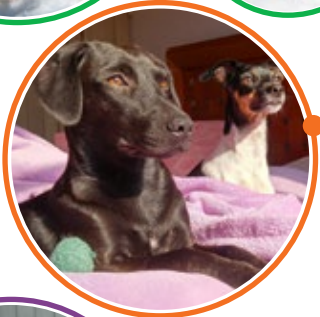
Calm and Relaxed

- Body:** Relaxed posture
- Tail:** Relaxed, wide sweeping or circular wag
- Ears:** Relaxed
- Eyes:** Relaxed, small pupils at the center
- Mouth:** Relaxed, mouth closed or opened slightly



Playful

- Body:** Play bow, front legs on ground with butt up
- Tail:** Up and wagging
- Ears:** Up
- Eyes:** Pupils dilated
- Mouth:** Open or closed



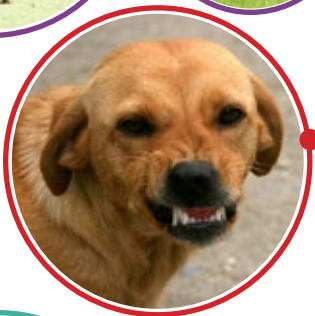
Alert

- Body:** Standing tall posture, hackles up
- Tail:** Horizontal
- Ears:** Perked up, forward and high on head
- Eyes:** Wide open
- Mouth:** Closed and quite



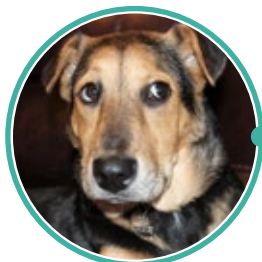
Dominant

- Body:** Stiff posture, hackles may be raised, mounting
- Tail:** High and stiff or wagging
- Ears:** Perked up, high on head
- Eyes:** Wide open
- Mouth:** Closed or possible growling



Aggressive

- Body:** Stiff posture, hackles may be raised
- Tail:** High and stiff wagging
- Ears:** Held up and back
- Eyes:** Wide, whites of eyes visible (whale eye)
- Mouth:** Growling, lips curled, teeth visible



Fearful or Anxious

- Body:** Trembling or cowering
- Tail:** Tucked or low and slowly wagging
- Ears:** Tilted back or flattened
- Eyes:** Avoidance, whites of eyes may be visible
- Mouth:** Yawning, licking lips

Learn how to take it to the next level >>

The Key to Understanding Your Dogs Body Language

Dogs talk with their body. Learning how to read your dogs body signals is a great first step to connecting with your dog. It will help you understand what he is feeling and thinking. Each part of your dogs body provides a signal to you, and yes sometimes they are hard to read, that's why it's important to study your dog. Dogs come in different shapes, sizes and builds, ears and tails vary greatly. It's also important to note that some dogs will show only one or two of these signs, some will exhibit all signs. Observe your dog in many different situations and before you know it you understand what your dog is saying!

When reading your dogs body language, it is critical to look at the entire picture. Some signals by themselves may be misleading if not looking at his full body and considering the situation. Remember each dog is unique!

Eyes

A **relaxed** dog will turn his head to look at something else and have **relaxed eyes** with small pupils at the center.

Dilated pupils are a signal that your dog is either very **aroused**, or incredibly **frightened**.

A **frightened** dog will stiffen his body and **widen his eyes**, enabling you to see the white of his eye. The flashing of the white of a dog's eye is referred to as "**whale eye**".

Tail

A wagging tail does **NOT** always mean a friendly dog! Dogs will wag their tail even if they are **aggressive**. Dogs with no or very short tails, or tails that curl over their backs are much harder to read. If your dog has a tail like this, it is even more important that you pay close attention to body language communicated with his other body parts.

A **wide, sweeping or circular tail wag** is a **calm and happy** greeting.

A **lowered tail that wags back and forth quickly** is usually a sign of a happy, relaxed or even an uncertain dog.

A **tucked tail**, especially if it is tucked all the way under the dog, is a sign of **fear or discomfort**.

The body and the base of the tail is **stiff or tense, possibly wagging**, is a sign of an alert, **dominant or aggressive** dog.

Ears

Dog ears come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and some types of ears are harder to read than others. Large hound ears or cropped ears are usually hard to read. Short, floppy, or prick ears make it easier to detect their position.

Ears held **forward and high** on the head indicate **interest or confidence**, while ears that are **tilted backwards** indicate **worry or submission**. A dog that is very **worried or fearful** will often pin his ears back.

Fur

The raised fur is commonly known as "**hackles**." When you see a dogs hackles, it does **NOT** mean the dog is aggressive. Different dogs raise their hackles for different reasons. It is usually sign of a **heightened emotional state**. A dog in a state of arousal or distress may raise up the fur on his shoulders or at the base of his tail or both.

Mouth

A cautious or scared canine might pull his lips taugt, yawn or lick his lips quickly, both yawning and lip licking are "calming signals". If your dog **yawns**, it's likely he is not tired, but **stressed**.

The most obvious is when a dog pulls his lips back and growls or bares his teeth in a snarl. Growls and snarls are a warning that a dog shows before he decides to bite or attack.

Calming Signals

"Calming signals" are signals that dogs give to humans and other dogs to denote stress and avoid conflict. They include things like **turning away**, walking in a **curve**, **shaking** it off, **yawning**, and **lip licking**. Most calming signals happen very quickly and you may not even notice them unless you are looking for it.

Your dog is talking to you, are you listening? Find out >>

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