



DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

Connecting with Your
Dog in Their Language



The Key to Understanding Your Dog's Body Language

So, you want to speak the language of dog. Is it even possible to speak “dog”?

The short answer is a big YES! But to speak “dog”, you need to understand your dogs body language. Dogs speak with their body, tail, ears, eyes, and mouth.

Think about dog language as a form of sign language.

Most people know when a dog's tail is tucked between his legs, he's scared.

But do you know a wagging tail doesn't always mean the dog is happy or friendly?

And believe it or not, when your dog yawns, it doesn't mean he's ready for a nap.



• RELAXED



• ALERT



• AGGRESSIVE

Learning Body Language Changed Our Lives Forever

It wasn't until we started fostering dogs that I really started to understand the language of dogs. As a foster family for dogs, we have been blessed with so many different dog personalities. We've had dogs from confident to scared to aggressive.

When we adopted our dog Ginger, I had no idea she would change our lives so much. After a few months in our home, we realized she had resource guarding issues. She started to growl at foster dogs, our other resident dog, Bear, and even my daughter. Many people would have given up on her and return her to the rescue. And when she attacked a foster dog for getting too close, I'm embarrassed to admit, the thought crossed our minds. It was a horrifying experience.

But we stuck it out, worked with a behaviorist dog trainer, learned to read her body language, and made some adjustments in our daily routine. Ginger is a very sweet dog that has a great personality, she just needed a family that was willing to understand and listen to her.

This experience has helped us understand our dogs' body language and truly connect and bond with them more than ever before. Thanks to Ginger, we have become better dog parents.



• OUR DOGS, GINGER AND BEAR

Connecting with Your Dog in Their Language

The more you observe different dogs, the quicker you'll be able to pick up on the small details of their body language.

Learning how to read your dog's body signals is a great way to truly connect with your dog. It will help you understand what he is feeling and thinking. Your dog will be so thankful that you actually understand what he's telling you!

Each part of your dog's body provides a signal to you. And yes sometimes they are hard to read, they can happen in a matter of seconds. It's also important to note that some dogs will show only one or two of these signs, while some will exhibit a series of signs. Observe your dog in many different situations and before you know it, you will understand what your dog is saying!

The following dog body language information is meant only to be a guideline for learning how to speak dog. **When reading your dogs body language, it is critical to look at the entire picture.** Some signals by themselves may be misleading if you're not looking at his full body and considering the situation. Remember each dog and situation is unique!



• SCARED



• DOMINATE (little dog) & CALMING SIGNALS (big dog)



• PLAYFUL

Calming Signals

Let's begin with calming signals, it's a huge part of getting to know your dog's language.

Calming signals are signs that dogs give to humans and other dogs to avoid conflict and announce stress.

Most calming signals happen quickly, and are so subtle you may not even notice them unless you are looking for them.

Dogs use calming signals as a way to calm themselves, or the dogs and people around them. Dogs want to prevent situations from escalating, so they use these signals to avoid any threats from dogs and people.

The dog is saying, I don't want to fight, let's be friends, or hey mom, I'm a little stressed here, can we go somewhere else?

If your dog displays one or a series of calming signals, your dog is telling you something, and it's your job to listen to her.





Calming Signals, continued.

Here are some of the most common calming signals to watch for in your dog:

- Yawning
- Licking his lips, upward to the nose
- Turning head away
- Shaking body (as if the dog were wet, but isn't wet)
- Walking in a curve
- Walking slowly, or even freezing
- Lifting one front paw
- Lowering the head and sniffing the ground
- Scratching
- Raised or furrowed eyebrows



When reading your dog's body language, it is critical to look at the entire picture.

A photograph of a brown and white dog, possibly a beagle mix, standing on a concrete surface. The dog's head is lowered towards the ground, and its right front paw is slightly lifted. The background is dark and out of focus. A yellow circular callout box in the upper right corner contains text explaining the dog's behavior. Three yellow teardrop-shaped markers point to the dog's head, its front paw, and the ground it is sniffing.

CALMING SIGNALS

This dog is attempting to avoid conflict and announce stress by using three calming signals. Notice the lowered head, sniffing the ground and lifted paw.

The Relaxed Dog

It would be ideal if life was easy and we all could be relaxed all of the time. But the reality for humans and dogs is that stress happens, and we occasionally get scared and even angry.

So don't expect your dog to be happy-go-lucky all day, every day. You and I have our moments, and so will your dog.

A relaxed dog will have relaxed eyes with small pupils at the center. He may look around at something else and will have a tail that wags quickly with a wide, sweeping or circular motion.

Depending on the type of ears, they will be held forward and high on the head indicating interest or confidence.

The mouth will be soft, sometimes with an appearance of a smile.

*A wagging tail
does NOT always mean
a friendly dog!*



The Scared Dog

It's normal for your dog to be scared in certain situations. New environments can be scary even for people. Embrace the situation and turn the new environment into a positive one.

The most well-known sign of being scared is a lowered or tucked tail, especially if it is tucked all the way under the dog.

A dog that is very worried or fearful will often pin his ears backward.

A scared or stressed dog might pull his lips taught, yawn or lick his lips quickly, remember the calming signals we talked about earlier?

A frightened dog will stiffen his body and widen his eyes, enabling you to see the white of his eye (whale eye). This can be a warning sign of fear-aggression in a dog. Meaning the dog is getting so scared he may bite to protect himself.

Lowering the head, or cowering is another signal that many people recognize as a scared dog. This can vary from a lowered head, to the entire body backing up into a space.



The Scared Dog, continued.

Notice the photo in the lower right corner, this dog is frightened of the person approaching him. He is moving his head and body away from the hand and also showing slight whale eye. This dog could potentially go to the next step and growl or bite if his signs are ignored. At that point, the dog may be wrongly labeled as aggressive. While in fact, he is simply afraid of the situation and the human is not listening to his body language.

Excessive shedding and/or dandruff may become noticeable during times of stress. I've seen this with several of our foster dogs after a long day of transport, then coming to a new environment, their stress level is high.

I found it super interesting that stress can manifest into skin and stomach problems, having you believe your dog has allergies or other health issues. Our dog Ginger does suffer from food allergies, but after learning about stress related skin problems, it's possible some of her allergy symptoms stem from her stress, since she is an easily stressed dog.



The Aggressive Dog

Most dogs truly are not aggressive. Humans have the misperception that dogs whom bark, growl, or show their teeth are aggressive.

But in fact, on average, the dogs that have been labeled “aggressive” have been talking to their owners for months, even years... begging them to listen. But their humans didn’t understand their body language!

So the dog gets frustrated, the human gets frustrated, and finally, the dog loses it and bites. He is then labeled aggressive, surrendered to a shelter and sometimes euthanized, which is not fair to the dog.

Watch for your dogs calming signals and you will hopefully never get to the point of aggression. But here are some signs that you may have encountered a dog with an aggressive state of mind.



The Aggressive Dog, continued.

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

Before the growl, usually, the dog's body and the base of the tail will stiffen or tense up. The tail may even be wagging in a slower motion than usual.

This sign by itself does not mean the dog is aggressive, so look at other body parts. The tense body or slow tail wag could just be a sign of being alert or even showing dominance. A dominant dog is not always an aggressive dog.

Whale eye is also a big sign that the dog is going to bite. Never approach a dog in this state of mind.



The Dominate Dog

As I mentioned earlier, a dominant dog is not a necessarily an aggressive dog but could lead to aggressiveness if allowed to get out of control. Some signs of a dog being dominate are:

- Mounting other dogs. The gender of the dog doesn't matter, it's not about sex.
- Stealing or guarding toys and food against people or dogs.
- Pushing their way through doorways with people or dogs. The human should ALWAYS be the first through any doorway.
- Placing the foreleg or head on the other dog's back or shoulder.
- Growling or snarling while playing, although some dog breeds "talk" more when playing and does not mean they are dominant, it's just their way of playing.
- Persistent and focused staring with direct eye contact.
- Forward stance with the head held high.
- Ears forward or pricked.
- Tail upright, and may wag stiffly and slowly.

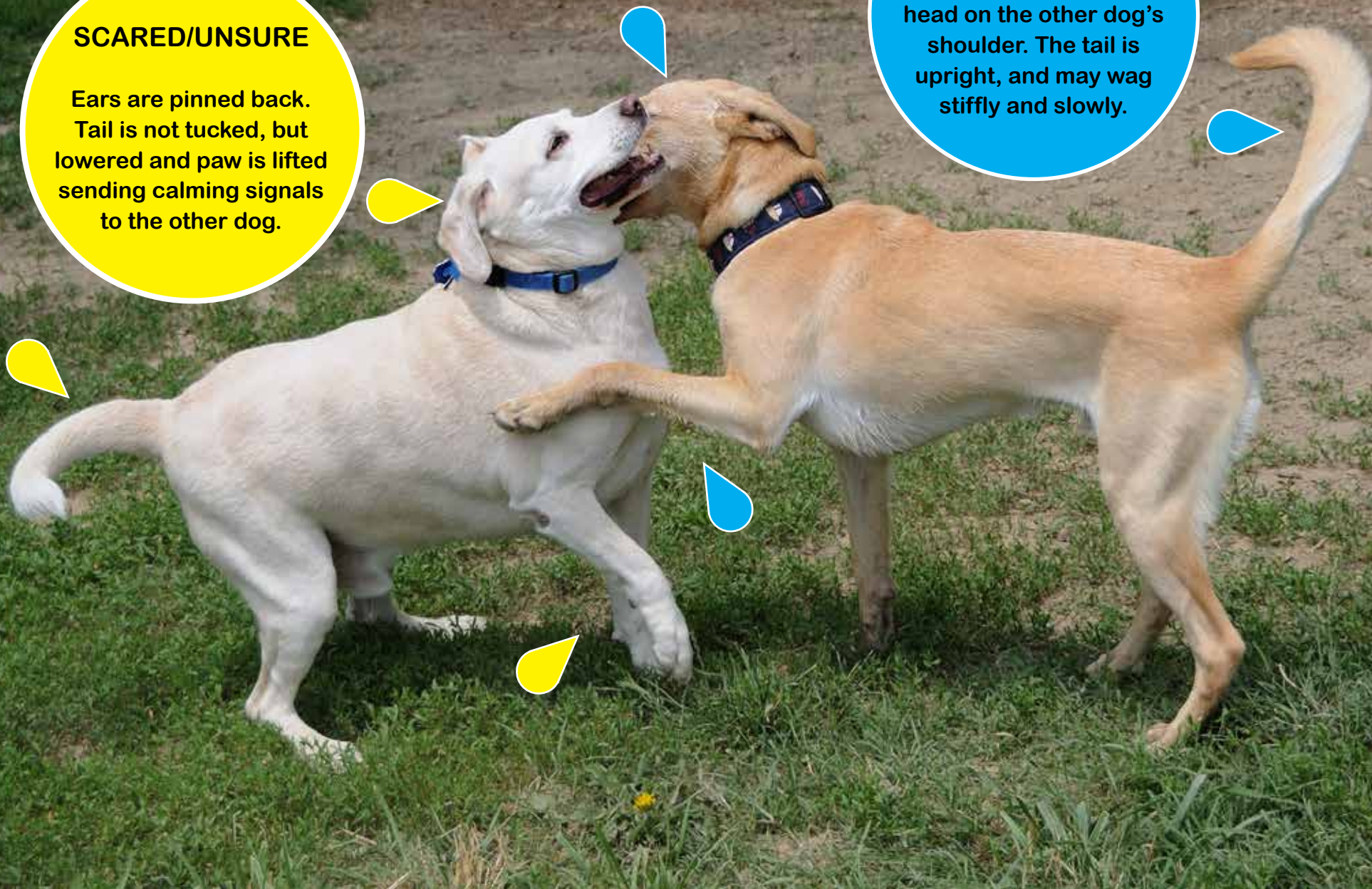


SCARED/UNSURE

Ears are pinned back.
Tail is not tucked, but lowered and paw is lifted sending calming signals to the other dog.

DOMINANT

Placing the foreleg and head on the other dog's shoulder. The tail is upright, and may wag stiffly and slowly.



The 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 aroused or frightened. I personally find it difficult to see my dogs pupils, with dark brown eyes, it's just not that noticeable.



◀••••• A frightened dog will stiffen his body and widen his eyes, enabling you to see the white of his eye. Flashing of the white of a dog's eye is referred to "whale eye".

Whale eye is a warning sign that the dog may escalate to biting, never approach a dog in this state of mind.

- Softening of the eyes can be a calming signal, announcing the dog does not want to be seen as a treat to another dog, or it could also mean the dog is under stress.

The Tail



◀.....● A **wagging tail does NOT always mean a friendly dog!**
Dogs will wag their tail even if they are aggressive.

- Dogs with no tail, 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 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 dog.

-● A tucked tail, especially if it is tucked all the way under the dog, is a sign of extreme fear.



-● When the body and the base of the tail are stiff or tense, possibly even wagging, it's a sign of an alert, dominant, or aggressive dog.

The 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. Our dog Ginger is very expressive with her ears, which makes it easier for me to read her.
 - Ears held forward and high on the head indicate interest or confidence.
 - Ears that are tilted backward indicate worry or submission.
 - A dog that is very worried or fearful will often pin his ears back flat against his head.

*Did you know dogs
have around 18 muscles
in each ear!*

The Fur



- ◀••••• When the fur on the back of a dog is raised, this is known as the dog's "hackles." When you see a dog's hackles, it does NOT mean the dog is aggressive.
- Different dogs raise their hackles for different reasons. The most common causes are excitement/arousal, surprise, fear, or defensive behavior.
- A dog may raise up the fur on his shoulders, at the base of his tail or even both.
- ◀••••• A dog under stress may start to excessively shed. Have ever noticed when you are at the vet's office, your dog's hair is all over you and the floor?
- ◀••••• Dandruff may also become heavily prevalent during times of stress. I notice this on the first day or two when we bring in new foster dogs. After the dog starts to relax, the dandruff starts to disappear.

The Mouth



◀••••• A cautious or scared dog might pull his lips tight, yawn, or lick his lips quickly.

- If your dog yawns, it's likely he is not tired, but trying to calm the current situation.



◀••••• 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 he needs to bite or attack.

- It's important NOT to punish your dog for using this warning. Your dog is talking to you and you need to listen. If you do not allow him to offer you this warning, he may go immediately into the bite or attack mode next time.



◀••••• When watching two or more dogs play, you will notice them playing with their mouths open, sometimes growling. Pay close attention to the body language, most of the time what you hear is a play growl. Another example of needing to observe the entire situation: the environment, and the other dogs.

- Whining or a shallow, fast and dry sounding pant is a sign of low-level stress. A wet pant is simply your dog's way of cooling down.
- Most dogs will not eat when stressed. No matter how tasty that treat is, she will not eat it under stress.



STRESSED OR SCARED

This dog is announcing stress with his titled ears, tight lips and softened eyes.

Remember, a sign of a dominate dog is placing the foreleg on the other dog's back or shoulder? Look at this mans arms... he is being dominate to this dog and it is making the dog very uncomfortable. The hand on top of the head can also been seen as dominate.

At Home

Congratulations! You've made it so far in learning your dog's body language. I'm guessing if you are anything like I was when I first learned all the calming signals, I noticed every single movement our dogs made. Which is great, but I don't want you to over analyze situations either. If your dog gives a quick shake off or a lick of the lips, be aware but don't overreact. Assess the situation, does it require action on your part? Or are the signals low-level stress and simply your dogs' way of correcting the situation himself?

Next, I will be talking about some common scenarios that you will encounter with your dog and some personal experiences. We've seen most of these situations over the years with our dogs and foster dogs. I hope this helps put everything in perspective and will help you connect with your dog even more.

Most of us are most comfortable at home, and the same will go for your dog. Your home environment is predictable and safe.

Pay close attention to your dog and watch for calming signals at home. Consider why he is using these calming signals, is it something you can control? Are you listening to your dog?

◀••• **Kids and Dogs:** In this photo, look at the puppy's head, eyes and ears... this puppy is using calming signals to show he is uncomfortable in this situation but no one is listening. If ignored too long, this puppy could grow up learning he needs to escalate his signals into growling and biting. Please, please, when children are hugging or invading a dogs space, explain to that child what the dog is saying. So many dogs biting kids situations can be easily avoided!



At Home, continued.

◀••• A couple of years ago, when we first adopted our dog Ginger, my daughter would lay next to her dog, face to face, and put her arms around her. Ginger would tense up, pin her ears back and sometimes try to move away. She even low growled at her a couple of times. We had to teach my daughter the calming signals so she understood Ginger. Otherwise, it could have easily escalated into a bite. They are like best friends now. It's super important that all kids be taught how to see a dogs calming signals.

◀••• **Noises:** Many dogs are afraid of vacuums, thunderstorms, fireworks and other loud noises. You'll likely notice a series of calming signals from your dog during these moments. She may start with a quick shake off, to lip licking, to pinning the ears back, to hiding under a bed. These situations can be difficult, but most dog behaviorists will recommend desensitizing your dog to the noises she is afraid of. It can be done, but it takes time and patience.

Seriously, every dog is different... we have our yellow lab, Bear that actually likes to be vacuumed! He will follow me, wagging his tail in a fast and swooping motion. Then we have Ginger, her ears go back, she will then run and hide every time I bring out the vacuum or mop. With desensitizing techniques, Ginger is slowly getting better.

One of our foster dogs, Silla, was frightened by thunderstorms. The first storm we had when she was in our care, she started to pace, then proceeded to find places to hide, starting with under the desk I was working at. Her calming signals were dry panting, pacing, lowered head and pinned ears.



At Home, continued.

Food and Toys: A resource aggressive dog feels the need to protect his food, bed, toy, or even his human. Protecting our belongings is natural for humans and dogs.

◀••• In this photo, the dogs' ears are titled back, he has the start of whale eye and his mouth is not relaxed, possibly even starting a low growl. All of these are signs of resource guarding his food.

This subject hits very close to home for me, as our Ginger is a resource guarder. We have gone through a lot of heartaches and behavioral training, but in the long run, it has made us better dog owners.

We have to be hyper-aware of all situations, but after learning her body language, we have been able to control the triggers and avoid any major issues. For Ginger, her ears pin back, she will turn her head, and her body becomes stiff. Then if those signs aren't acknowledged, she'll show her whale eye, do a low growl, and last resort goes into attack mode. All these signs can happen under 30 seconds. I highly recommend contacting the help of a dog behaviorist if you have a resource guarding dog, it helped us tremendously.

Doorways: Does your dog push her way through doorways before you? This behavior is showing dominance... the human should always be the first through the door. I admit I am terrible at enforcing this rule. Usually, it's our Ginger that is pushing her way past everyone, including our other dog Bear. I have to remember to stop and slow down and make her wait her turn. Doorway pushing may not seem like a big deal, but it could potentially knock someone over and it could lead to further behavior issues.



Out and About

The outside world can be scary and unpredictable for some dogs. The noises of construction, trucks, new people, new dogs, and new places all can startle even the most confident dogs.

Taking Walks: I've seriously had foster dogs afraid of big rocks on our walks. Their head would lower and body would freeze. As silly as that seems to us, they've never seen some of these things before. They aren't sure if that rock is going to get up and move or what!

When we first adopted our dog, Bear, he was afraid of any kid on a bike that we passed on our walks. He would move toward me, the tail would lower, and sometimes even his hackles would raise. It didn't take long for him to realize the bike wasn't out to harm him, he was just never exposed to it before.

Meeting New Dogs: Meeting new dogs on leash can be stressful, and usually is not recommended. Watch your dog's body language and listen and adjust your routine accordingly. Lunging forward, tail down or tucked, ears pinned back, hackles up, and barking are all signs your dog should not be meeting that new dog on the leash.

At the Vets Office: The vets' office is a huge stresser for many dogs. Our dog JJ was so afraid of the vet, he exhibited extreme fear aggression. He would start to heavy dry pant in the waiting room, shed a pound of hair, and once we got into the exam room, he turned evil. Ears tucked, growling, and finally turning his head to bite. I highly recommend talking with your vet for solutions if your dog starts to show extreme calming signals when visiting.



At the Shelter

Your dog will show different body language when he is at a shelter vs. home or being out in public. It's important to consider the environment when looking at his body language.

The shelter is loud, scary and unpredictable. A dog that looks scared or even aggressive at the shelter may simply be under a tremendous amount of stress. Once taken out of that environment, the dog will most likely become a happy, balanced dog with the right family.

You will most likely see every calming signal in the book at a shelter. But don't read into these signs too much, remember the environment means everything in this situation.

If looking for a dog at the humane society or other large shelter, ask to see the dog in a quiet private room. Spend a half hour with the dog and see if his behavior changes at all.

We have an assessment test available in our resource library, you can click here to [download it now](#). Bring a copy with you when searching for your next dog.

I highly recommend considering a [foster-based rescue](#), the dogs are less stressed when you meet them in a home environment.



Never Stop Learning

I am thrilled that you have taken the time to read Dog Body Language 101. Dogs are complex, and learning their body language is a huge step in becoming a better dog parent. I hope this changes your lives as much as it did ours. I know my dogs are grateful that I am truly listening and understanding them.

Don't expect perfection, but picking up on simple signals will start making a big difference in you and your dogs relationship.

If you have kids, it's important to start teaching them the calming signals. Many dog bites occur because the dog is not being heard.

If you suspect your dog has resource guarding issues, please read [Living with a Resource Guarding Dog](#).

I have put together several resources for you if you'd like to learn even more. [Click here to find the books I recommend on Amazon](#).

On the following page is a cheat sheet so you can post it on your fridge for reference. Share it with your family so they can start learning your dogs body language too!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me anytime at debi@rescuedogs101.com.





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, whining, dry panting

Calming Signals

Yawning • Licking his lips • Head turning away • Shaking body • Walking in a curve • Walking slowly or freezing
 Lifting one front paw • Lowering the head, sniffing ground • Scratching • Raised or furrowed eyebrows

CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

CUT ↑

These flash cards are designed to make it easy for you to print at home.

Print

Simply print on your color printer.

TIP: Using a heavy weight card stock can make the flash cards a bit more sturdy.

FOLD →

Cut

Cut on the blue dotted lines using scissors or cutting board.

Fold

Fold each card in half on the pink dotted line.

Glue

After folding in half, use a glue stick or tape each card together.

CUT ↓



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**SCARED and/or
STRESSED**

- Tail is tucked under his body
- Head is hiding
- Ears lowered

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**SCARED and/or
STRESSED**

- Widen eyes (whale eye)
- Ears tilted back
- Paws are spread apart with nails extruding

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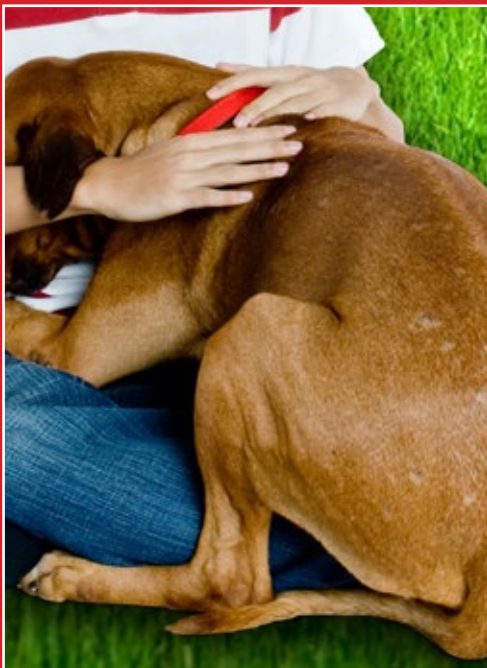


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**SCARED and/or
STRESSED**

- Tail is tucked under his body

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101



← FOLD

CUT

CUT

CUT

CUT

CUT

Start by asking these questions and then you can add your own.

What is this dog feeling?

How do you know this dog is scared, aggressive or happy?

FOLD

What is this dogs (tail) (ears) (eyes) (body) telling us?

Is it okay to approach and pet this dog?

Why is this dog...

True or False.

CUT



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- Widen eyes (whale eye)
 - Ears lowered
 - Head is lowered
 - Hiding under furniture
- ## SCARED

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- Head lowered
 - Ears tilted back
 - Eyes squinting
- ## UNCOMFORTABLE and/or STRESSED

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- Eyes squinting
 - Ears tilted back
- ## UNCOMFORTABLE and/or STRESSED (almost whale eye)

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

FOLD



CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

CUT ↑

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



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- Ears lowered
 - Head lowered
 - guarding food bowl
 - Paws appear to be
 - Mouth is slightly open
- ## RESOURCE GUARDING

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- Teeth showing
 - Shoulder bumping
other dog
 - Ears held forward
and high
- ## DOMINANT and/or AGGRESSIVE

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- Quick licking of nose
 - Eyebrows furrowed
 - Head lowered
- ## UNSURE and/or STRESSED

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

FOLD →

CUT ↓



← FOLD

CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

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<https://www.rescuedogs101.com/dog-body-language-101-book/>

CUT ↑



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**SCARED and/or
STRESSED**

- Widen eyes (whale eye)
- Head lowered
- Ears tilted back
- This dog if pushed further may bite

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**SCARED and/or
STRESSED**

- Ears lowered
- Body pulling away from situation
- One paw lifted

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AGGRESSIVE

- Lips and nose curled
- Teeth showing
- Body lunging
- This dog will bite if approached

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

← FOLD

← FOLD

CUT ↓



CUT →

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CUT →

↑ CUT

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**UNSURE and/or
STRESSED**

- Ears tilted back
- Head turning away
- Yawning

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**ALERT and/or
AGGRESSIVE**

- Ears held high and alert
- Body is very still
- Tail may be stiff and
wagging slowly

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**SCARED and/or
STRESSED**

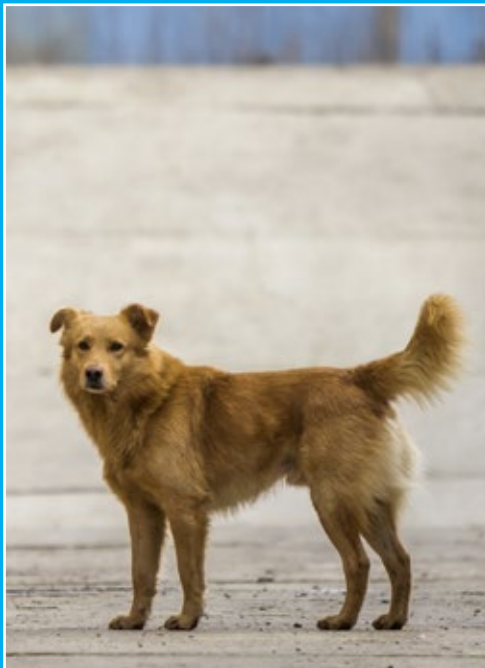
- Widen eyes (whale eye)
- Ears tilted back
and lowered
- Head turning away

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

← FOLD

← FOLD

↓ CUT



CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

CUT ↑

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- One paw lifted
 - Ears lowered
 - Head is turned away
- ## SCARED and/or STRESSED

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

- Lips and nose curled
 - Teeth showing
 - These dogs may bite if approached
- ## AGGRESSIVE

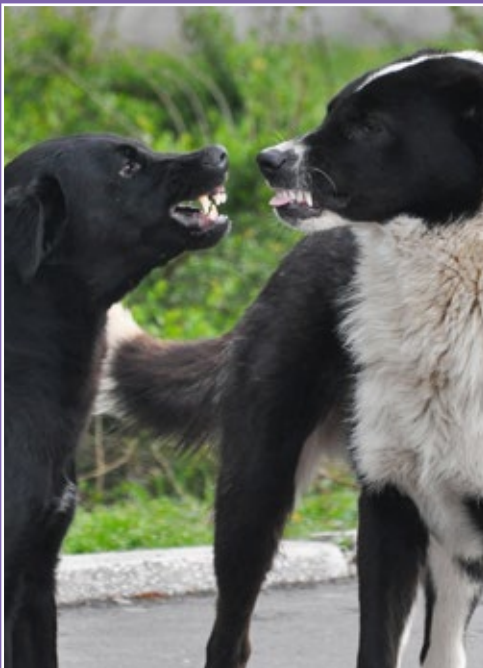
DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

- Tail is wagging quickly
 - Mouth is relaxed and appears to be smiling
 - Eyes are soft and relaxed
- ## HAPPY and RELAXED

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

FOLD →

← FOLD



CUT ↓

CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

↑ CUT

If you don't already have the Dog Body Language e-book, download it now at

<https://www.rescuedogs101.com/dog-body-language-101-book/>



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- Ears tilted back
 - Eyebrows furrowed
- SCARED and/or STRESSED**

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101



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- Body stiff
 - Head turned
 - Ears tilted back
 - Widen eyes (whale eye)
- SCARED and/or STRESSED**

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101



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- Ears held forward and high
 - Tail is erect
 - Shoulder bumping other dog
- DOMINANT**

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

→ FOLD

← FOLD

↓ CUT



CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

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CUT ↑



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- Ears tilted back
- Body is very still
- Complete situation must be observed

**SCARED, ALERT
or AGGRESSIVE**

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101



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- Ears tilted back
- Widen eyes (whale eye)

**SCARED and/or
STRESSED**

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101



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- Ears tilted back
- Head lowered
- Widen eyes (whale eye)
- Avoiding eye contact

**SCARED and/or
STRESSED**

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

FOLD →



CUT ↓



FOLD ←



CUT →

CUT ↑

These flash cards are designed to make it easy for you to print at home.

Print

Simply print on your color printer.

TIP: Using a heavy weight card stock can make the flash cards a bit more sturdy.

Cut

Cut on the blue dotted lines using scissors or cutting board.

Fold

Fold each card in half on the pink dotted line.

Glue

After folding in half, use a glue stick or tape each card together.

CUT ↓

CUT →



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- Mouth is relaxed and appears to be smiling
- Eyes and ears are soft and relaxed
- Laying down

**HAPPY and
RELAXED**

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101



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- Mouth is relaxed and appears to be smiling
- Eyes and ears are soft and relaxed
- Laying down

**HAPPY and
RELAXED**

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

CUT →



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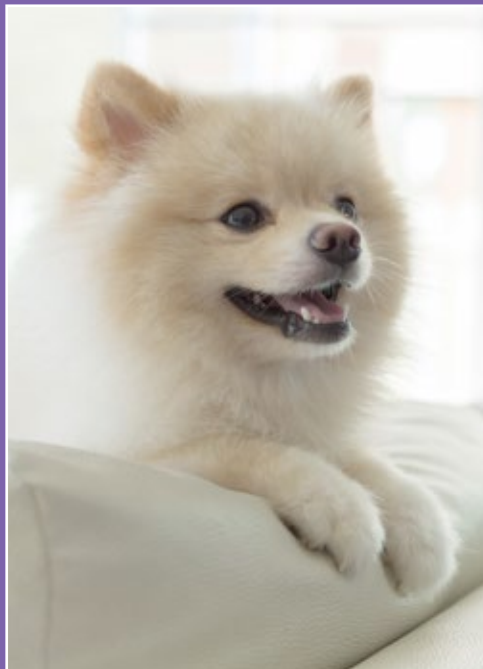
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- Eyes and ears are soft and relaxed
- Laying down

**HAPPY and
RELAXED**

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

CUT →

FOLD ←



CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

CUT →

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CUT ↑



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**HAPPY and
RELAXED**

- Mouth is open and relaxed
- Rolling over on back

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101



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**RESOURCE
GUARDING**

- Mouth is tightly gripping bone
- Whale eye (whites of eyes showing)
- Ears lowered and tilted back

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101



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DOMINANT

- Tail is erect
- Paw is on other dogs shoulder
- Hackles slightly raised

DOG BODY LANGUAGE 101

FOLD →

Cut

Cut on the blue dotted lines using scissors or cutting board.

Fold

Fold each card in half on the pink dotted line.

Glue

After folding in half, use a glue stick or tape each card together.

CUT ↓



← FOLD