



Learning to Read Your Dog

Dogs are honest about their emotions and need to feel safe to learn. No matter what skill you want to teach, what behavior you want to work on, or what new experience you want your dog to have, understanding your furkid's emotional state is essential.

Some dogs are more reactive to sounds and others to movement. Some dogs enjoy activities with other dogs and some prefer people. Some dogs are confident in one location but uncertain in another, similar location. All of this is normal. The more you listen to your dog and respond to his/her body language, the better relationship and experiences you will both have.

Making the time to review these materials and then watching your dog's reactions will give you wonderful insights into what your dog genuinely enjoys.

Video: **Dog Body Language - What Your Dog is Desperately Trying to Tell You!**

by www.thefamilydog.com

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bstvG_SUzMo&t=29s

Video: **11 Subtle Signs Your Dog is Stressed!**

by Creedons Dog Care

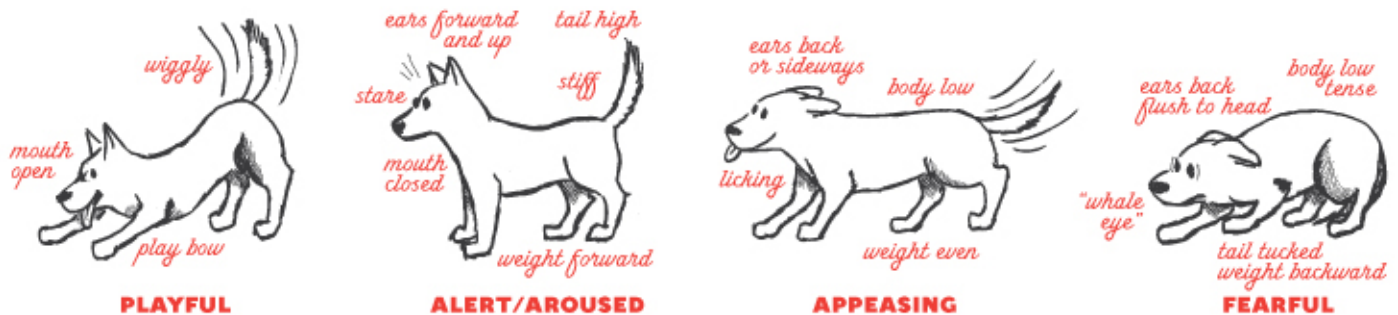
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptgqVgtFEI4>

Article: **Guide to Reading Canine Body Language**

by Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA, published by Whole Dog Journal

<https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/behavior/body-language/guide-to-reading-canine-body-language/>

Below is good overview of how a dog expresses its emotional state. The following 2 pages have posters that expand on this information.



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The Labs & Co (www.thelabs&co.com)

Body Language of Fear in Dogs



Slight Cowering



Major Cowering

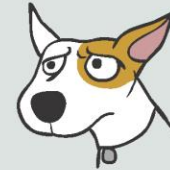
More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips
when no food nearby



Panting
when not hot or thirsty



Brows Furrowed, Ears to Side



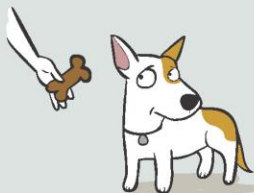
Moving in Slow Motion
walking slow on floor



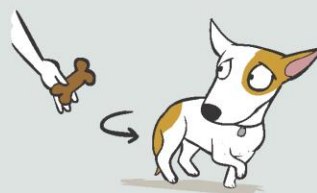
Acting Sleepy or Yawning
when they shouldn't be tired



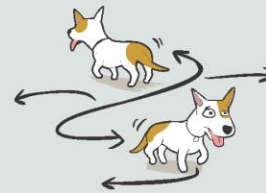
Hypervigilant
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing

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NVDTTC

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CATTLEDOG PUBLISHING
drsophiayin.com
A VETERINARY CORPORATION



Questions@cattledogpublishing.com

(530) 757-2383 — P.O. Box 4516, Davis, CA 95617

Support@lowstresshandling.com

CALM and RELAXED? or SHUT DOWN?

Calm, attentive, responsive



Ready for incoming signals!

Lying down, TAKING A BREAK



All cool, slow down, ok?



Ok

Soft faces and bodies, wiggly



Belly rubs!

Lying down, OFFERING belly, soft and wiggly body



This is a positive memory!

Responding to handler and environment, free and easy body movement

Frozen, unresponsive



Tucked in, staying very still

Lying down, OVERWHELMED ("Flooded")



Help. Need space

"whale eye"
Ears pinned

Tense face and body



Tense

Lying down, FORCEFULLY RESTRAINED to have belly exposed - stiff scared

Staying very STILL, guarded posture



It's useless.

Overwhelmed, unresponsive and avoidant

Tail tucked

Body Language References

eileenanddogs.com/2013/11/21/shut-down-dogs-part-2/
<https://paws4udogs.wordpress.com/2013/08/12/belly-rub-redux/>
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