



Learn The Language of
Your Profession

The Basics of Canine Communication & Social Behavior

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Niki Tudge MBA, PCBC-A, CDBC, CDT

Founder & President
The DogSmith License
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DogNostics Career Center
Founder & President
The Pet Professional Guild
President
Doggone Safe

Professional Certifications

- Dip, ABT. Diploma. Animal Behavior Technology
- Dip, CBST. Diploma Canine Behavior Science and Technology
- PCBC-A & PCT-A Pet Professional Accreditation Board
- Certificate LLA – Dr. Susan Friedman
- Certified People Trainer. International Training Board (ITB). TS1, TS2 & TS3
- Certified Facilitator & Project Manager - Acuity Institute
- Black Belt Six Sigma Certified
- M.B.A & B.A - Oxford Brookes University
- HND – Ealing Hammersmith & West London College

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Social Behavior, Topographies, Facial Muscles, Canine Systems, Canine Rivalry, Interpreting Canine Communication, Dog Bite Progression, Dog Bite Thresholds, Consent Testing Ritualized Play, Distance Increasing, Distance Decreasing, Predation, Puppy Biting , Greeting Rituals, Motivational Conflict, Reactivity, Appeasement, Adjunctive, Ambivalent and the list goes on

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Introduction

MANY BENEFITS TO SPEAKING DOG!



As professionals we have a fundamental responsibility to protect and care for the dogs in our charge. This includes:

- a) Emotionally
- b) Physically
- c) Environmentally

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Many Benefits to Comprehensively Speaking Dog!

1. Making choices for your dog with confidence
2. Building a healthy and even stronger relationship
3. Minimizing frustration and misunderstanding
4. Your dog's emotional well-being
5. Encouraging your dogs' communication skills
6. Supportive environment for building confidence and skills

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The Misunderstanding

- There are powerful correlations between body posture, breathing patterns, facial expressions and emotional states – Suzanne Clothier



Body language is all about the outward expression of the internal physiological states

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Ways To Interpret Canine Communication

- **Methods of interpretation**
 - Body Language
 - Emotional Responses
 - Vocal Signs
- **Context Related**
 - Never in isolation
 - Understand the environment
 - ✦ Location of dog
 - ✦ Context
 - ✦ Who, what, when
 - Reinforcement history

What is the dog doing?

What is their body language?

What else is going on?

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IMPORTANT

Interpreting Canine Communication

In order to observe body language in context, consider the following:

- the situation, body language signals, the body language expressed by all parts of the dog's body, the environment, and the individuals involved.
- It is worth noting how the body language changes with feedback from the environment or the other individuals interacting

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Lesson One Communication Is Social Behavior

IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS WE SPEAK TO BEHAVIOR BEING ANYTHING WE CAN OBSERVE THAT CAN BE MEASURED



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Communication is Social Behavior

But what is

1. Behavior
2. Emotionally Driven Behavior
3. Communication
4. The Science of Learning
5. Behavior Modification



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1. What is Behavior

- Anything that can be observed and measured
 1. Behavior has different dimensions
 - ✦ Intensity – the effort put into the behavior
 - ✦ Duration – how long the behavior lasts for
 - ✦ Frequency – how often the behavior is triggered
 - ✦ Latency – How soon after the cue is the behavior performed,



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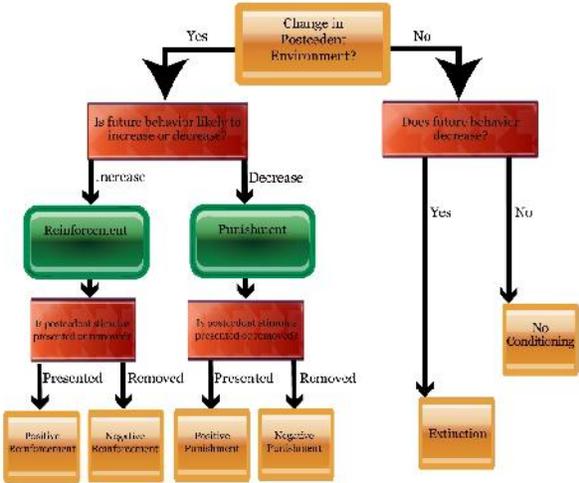
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The Topography of Behavior

- All behavior is designed to access something or avoid or escape something!



```

    graph TD
      A[Change in Postevent Environment?] -- Yes --> B[Is future behavior likely to increase or decrease?]
      A -- No --> C[Does future behavior decrease?]
      B -- Increase --> D[Reinforcement]
      B -- Decrease --> E[Punishment]
      D --> F[Is postevent stimulus presented or removed?]
      E --> G[Is postevent stimulus presented or removed?]
      F -- Presented --> H[Positive Reinforcement]
      F -- Removed --> I[Negative Reinforcement]
      G -- Presented --> J[Positive Punishment]
      G -- Removed --> K[Negative Punishment]
      C -- Yes --> L[Extinction]
      C -- No --> M[No Conditioning]
    
```

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2. What is Emotionally Driven Behavior

- Most fear and aggression are elicited through problematic emotions.- CER
- Fear is an emotion not a behavior
- The behavior you see as a result is the “Operant” – the measurable behavior
- You cannot train out fear – You must change the underlying emotion
 - The dog can be conditioned to not fear a stimulus but to regard it neutrally or with pleasure



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Animal Emotions

According to Bekoff (2008), it is simply “bad biology to argue against the existence of animal emotions. Scientific research in evolutionary biology, cognitive ethology (the study of animal minds) and social neuroscience support the view that numerous and diverse animals have rich and deep emotional lives.”

“...by using the MRI to push away the limitations of behaviorism, we can no longer hide from the evidence. Dogs, and probably many other animals (especially our closest primate relatives), seem to have emotions just like us.” – Berns (2013)

Panksepp (2012) defined seven fundamental emotions in mammals: SEEKING, RAGE, FEAR, LUST, CARE, PANIC/GRIEF, and PLAY, which he called “the emotional primes, the primary-process emotional systems associated with specific brain networks and specifically designated in the brain-stimulation studies of emotions.”

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3. What is Communication

Stay Away

- closed mouth
- stiff body
- dog stands with front legs splayed, head low, looking at you
- eyes intense
- ears forward



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Methods Dogs Use To Communicate Include:

- Scent
- Vocalizations
- Visual Signals
- Body Movements

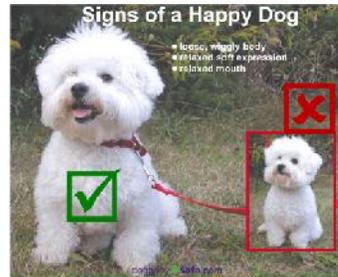


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Clear Communication

1. Free of anthropomorphizing
– look at what is being communicated via the animal's communication system
2. Free of labeling – dominance, aggressive,
3. Free of projection – attributing your own psychological issues to another



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Communication is Behavior

- Communication “signals” are behavior, just like any other behaviors.
- Approaching and accessing pleasurable stimulation and
- Avoiding or escaping unpleasant stimulation is what behavior is about.
- Communication signals inform you of the pets' emotional state in that given context at that given time



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A Lack of Human Comprehension

- Human understanding is limited
 - Humans are unaware of the topography
 - Cannot decipher what is being communicated
 - Tiny details are missed as pets vacillate back and forth between communication signals
- Consequences are
 - ✦ Pets labeled as unpredictable
 - ✦ Bite came from “nowhere”
 - ✦ Problematic emotions not treated
 - ✦ Misery for dogs!
 - ✦ Dogs labeled as dominant



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Courtesy of Caroline Howlett

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4. The Science of Learning & Behavior

- Learning and Behavior are a science
- The science of Applied Behavior Analysis
- Need to focus on what is the function of the behavior
 - What does the pet aim to gain and or/avoid

In cases of high emotional arousal (“emotional hijacking”), the emotional brain inhibits the rational brain and an animal will go into fight or flight mode. In biological terms, this means it is difficult, if not impossible, for them to learn productively when in a fearful or anxious state, other than to fear or distrust the person (or other, corresponding stimulus) causing the negative emotional response.

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5. How is Communication Behavior Modified

- In the same way any other behavior is modified
 - Teach a more appropriate or acceptable behavior
 - And/or
 - Change the underlying emotional response = change the operant/observable behavior

Smiling vs Warning



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What is Normal Social Behavior?

- Abnormal behavior is all behavior that quantitatively differs from the average behavior of a certain species, breed and population.
 - In a certain geographic region and in a certain period of time
 - Abnormal behavior is an exaggeration of the norm.
 - Behavior only become pathological when it is due to hormonal or organic changes in the brain

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Lesson Two The Learning Impact on Social Behavior



**THERE ARE ALWAYS
CONSEQUENCES
THAT INCREASE OR
DECREASE BEHAVIOR**

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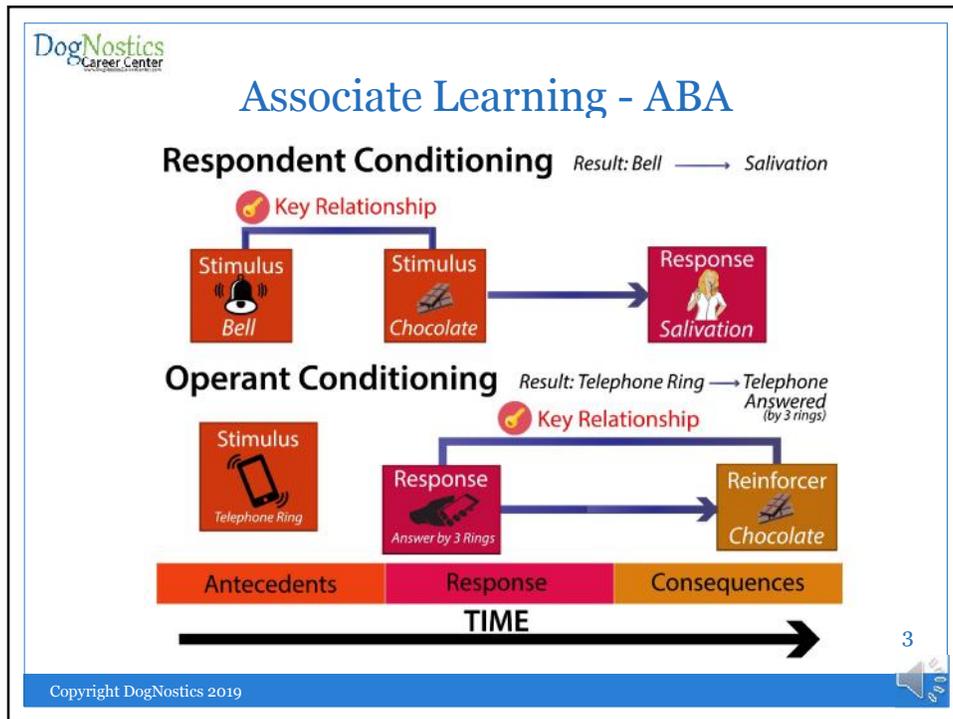
Learning

- **Nonassociative Learning**
 - Nonassociative learning is defined by how animals change their response to a stimulus without associating it with a positive or negative reinforcer. This occurs in the form of habituation or sensitization.
- **Associative Learning**
 - Associative learning is defined as a form of conditioning, a theory that states behavior can be modified or learned based on a stimulus and a response. Associative learning processes include respondent and operant conditioning.

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Most Damaging Cultural Myth

Dr. Karen Overall.

Dominance theory is insidious and has crept into everything we do with dogs and it's wrong. It has gotten in the way of modern science and I've just about had it. Every single thing we do with dogs hurts them because we don't see using dominance theory to train dogs is today considered to be outdated and obsolete, with current scientific knowledge recanting the findings of previous studies that promote the implementation of alpha rolls and so-called dominance training.

We know Better So Let's Do Better!

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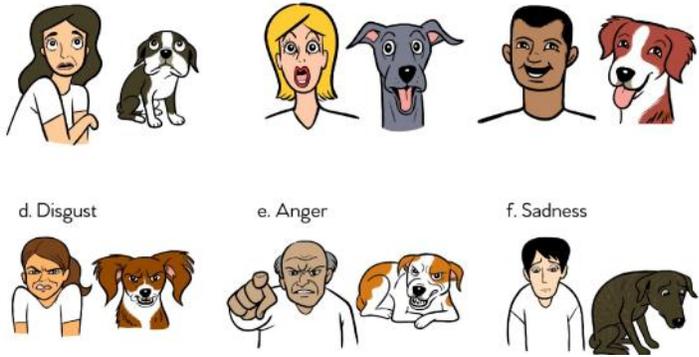
Evolution of Facial Communication

1. Humans Process Dog and Human Facial Affect in Similar Ways
 Annett Schirmer, Cui Shan Seow, Trevor B. Penney
 PLoS One. 2013; 8(9): e74591. Published online 2013 Sep
 4. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0074591
 PMCID: PMC3762775

2. Evolution of Facial Muscle Anatomy in Dogs
 Juliane Kaminski, Bridget M. Waller, Rui Diogo, Adam Hartstone-Rose, and Anne M. Burrows
 PNAS July 16, 2019 116 (29) 14677-14681; first published June 17, 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1820653116>
 1. Edited by Brian Hare, Duke University, Durham, NC, and accepted by Editorial Board Member C. O. Lovejoy May 10, 2019 (received for review December 5, 2018)

a. Fear b. Surprise c. Happiness

d. Disgust e. Anger f. Sadness



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Communication is Behavior

- Communication “signals” are behavior, just like any other behaviors.
- Approaching and accessing pleasurable stimulation and avoiding or escaping unpleasant stimulation is what behavior is about.
- Communication related behaviors are social behavior.

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Social Behaviors

- Social Behaviors are influenced by operant conditioning just like sitting or coming when called even though they are made up of species typical modal action patters.
- Antecedents set the occasion for the behavior.
 - Presence of a human
 - Presence of another dog
 - Another being
- Consequences increase or decrease the strength of these behaviors.

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Lesson Three Canine Communication Systems



Pictures
Speak
A Thousand
Words
If Only
We
Would
Listen!



Lindy Courtesy of Sara Berry McLoudrey

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Systems for Classifying Behaviors

1. The Ethological Model

- The ethological model refers to affiliative and agonistic behaviors
- **Affiliative behaviors** usually function to promote continued interaction (approach, distance decreasing)
- **Agonistic behaviors** involve aggressive behaviors or appeasement behaviors, (distance increasing)
 - both of which function to escape or avoid the social contact, or some component of the encounter (distance increasing behaviors)

2. Behavior Analysis

- Approach-Avoidance system in which behaviors function to promote social contact or to escape or avoid social contact.
 - Avoidance Behaviors = distance increasing
 - Approach Behaviors = distance decreasing behaviors.

Smiling vs Warning



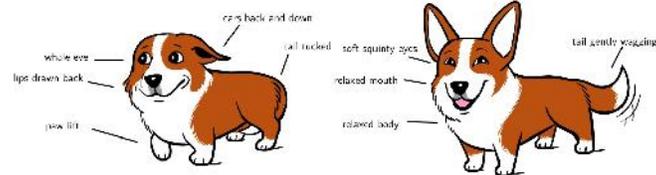
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Comparatively Ethological v Behavior

- Affiliative behaviors are equivalent to distance decreasing behaviors and
- Agonistic behaviors are equivalent to distance increasing behaviors

Fear vs Relaxed



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What About This Picture



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**LESSON FOUR
DISTANCE DECREASING
SIGNALS (AFFILIATIVE
BEHAVIORS)**

**A Closer Look
at
Communication
Signals**



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 **Distance Decreasing**



Courtesy of Kathleen Kiefer

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How Do you Know It's Play?

- A dog displaying species typical distance decreasing behaviors will often utilize prompts to play.
 - Self-handicapping
 - Role Reversals
 - Lots of Meta-Signals



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Play is Used To Practice

- Play Fighting
- Play Fleeing
- Play Feeding
- Play Courting



Courtesy of Debbie McAvey

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Behaviors Prompting Play

- Play between dogs usually takes the form of mock combat or chase-and-be-chased games, and these behaviors effectively promote continued play in contexts that would otherwise seem apparently hostile.



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Play Prompts Usually Work

- Unless one dog chooses not to participate.
- When dogs play, they continually use these behaviors throughout their play sessions to minimize hostility.



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The Play Bow

- The play bow is a familiar posture in which the dog bows the front of his body so that his front legs are parallel to the ground, while the hindquarters remain in the standing position.



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Play Bark

- The dog may also offer a few friendly barks to encourage a playmate, usually of higher pitch than aggressive barks.



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Play Wrestling

- While wrestling in mock combat, the dog's eyes will often open wide as he looks sideways at his playmate, resulting in a flash of the whites of the eyes (eye flashing).



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Play Rituals



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Cutoff Behavior

- Cutoff behavior serves to temporarily break off sensory contact with the receiver, thereby reducing arousal in both themselves and their opponent. (Paul Chance 1962).
 - Playing dogs will take frequent short breaks in which they stand relatively still, looking away from their opponent. These are likely “cutoff behaviors.
 - Sniffing can be a cut off behavior



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Subtle Cut Off Behaviors



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Waves of Play

- Normal play occurs in waves.
- Observing the normal waves of play can prevent aggression.
 - Gentle interruption or redirection is a great way to interfere.



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The image shows two dogs, a black and white one on the left and a brown and white one on the right, sitting on a light-colored wooden floor. They are both looking towards a person's feet, which are wearing blue jeans and grey socks, positioned in the center of the frame between the two dogs.

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Play Video



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The image shows two dogs playing on a grassy field. On the left, a large black dog is jumping or running towards the right. On the right, a smaller tan dog is lying on the grass, looking up at the black dog. The background is a plain concrete wall.

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Less Aroused Distance Decreasing Behavior

- Calm, relaxed dogs have relaxed muscles.
- Ears regular position
- Tail
- May pant gently
- Tongue
- Eyes
- Paw



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LESSON FIVE
DISTANCE INCREASING
SIGNALS
(APPEASEMENT & AGGRESSION)



A Closer Look at Communication Signals



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 **Distance Increasing Behaviors**

- Distance increasing behaviors may serve various functions and include behaviors that predict aggressive or appeasement or flight behavior.
 - In practice, most behavior sets are ambivalent, involving behaviors from more than one dimension at the same time.



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Distance Increasing The 4 F's

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Appeasement is Distance Increasing

- **Appeasement behavior is used when the dog seeks to escape or avoid some component of the encounter.**
 - Peace I mean no harm
 - Most misunderstood behavior

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Appeasement Video

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Summary of Passive v Active Appeasement – Avoid Conflict!

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Passive	Active
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will not try to escape or avoid social contact • Passive appeasement includes such behavior as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ lying in a recumbent position, exposing the underside of the chest and sometimes the abdomen • The ears are directed back and down • Ears are flat against the head • The tail is held down, usually between the thighs. • The dog often wags slightly • They may expel urine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog may be unruly or obnoxious • Persistently push his muzzle into you • Actively engages personal space. • The dog has a crouched, diminutive posture • The ears are back and down close to the head • The Tail in a low position, often between the legs. • The dog will often wag his tail, but his whole rear-end will wag rather than just the tail • He may with his body curled in a “U” shape, presenting both facial and anal area for inspection. • He will push his muzzle into the nose or mouth of the other dog and lick with short, repeated laps

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Flight – A Distance Increasing Behavior



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The image shows two dogs in a grassy field. On the left, a black and white dog is looking towards the right. On the right, a tan and white dog is lying on its back with its paws up, appearing to be in a playful or relaxed state. The background is a green lawn with a fence line visible in the distance.

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Now Let's Talk About Aggression

- Aggression - Distance Increasing Behavior
 - The Most Hostile
- What is Aggression?

The definition of **Aggression** is any act that is meant to intimidate, scare or physically hurt another dog or person.



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The image shows a close-up of a German Shepherd dog's head. The dog is looking slightly to the left with its mouth open, showing its teeth and tongue. The background is plain white.

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Two Types of Aggressive Topography

- Non-Affective Aggression – Predation. Behavior to hunt, kill and eat. Biologically driven



- Affective Aggression – The intent is to harm and kill and is emotionally driven

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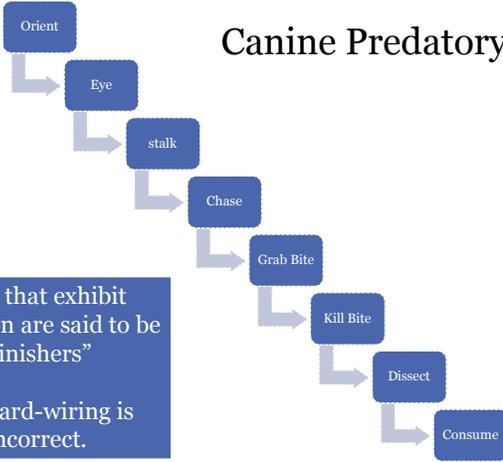
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Predation – Biological Motivation

Canine Predatory Sequence



Dogs that exhibit predation are said to be “finishers”
The hard-wiring is incorrect.

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What Is Predatory Drift?

- Predatory drift, normal dog – dog interactions or behaviors from predatory action patterns are different to aggression
- Triggered by fleeing movement and the attack is released by the presence of prey.
 - They can however be unacceptable if a dog is killing other pet animals or smaller dogs

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Important Notes - Management

- Predation is not subject to behavior modification
 - Dog killing other dogs or cats-- it has to be assumed the behavior will occur AGAIN



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Reactivity

- The term “reactive dog” means one in a state of over reactivity, or a heightened arousal to a stimuli. This heightened arousal can come from fear, frustration, or a lack of socialization
 - Don’t mistake it for aggression.
 - The intent and motivation is different



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Affective Aggression

- Behavior that has an intent to threaten and or harm another
 - Person
 - Dog
 - Object



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Listen to your Dogs' Whispers So They Don't Need To Shout!

All of these are often missed, mocked, laughed at and/or ignored by pet owners!

I have seen these deliberately triggered for videos. Very irresponsible!

How a dog reacts to stress or threat ©Carol Shepard, 2004

Ladder of Distance Increasing Communication

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LESSON SIX
DISTANCE INCREASING
SIGNALS
(AGGRESSION)



Offensive
&
Defensive
Aggression

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Offensive Aggression v Defensive Aggression

- Aggressive behavior has many causes, but can be lumped into two general categories: **offensive** aggression and **defensive** aggression



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Offensive Aggression

- Offensive aggression is an anger and/or fear based – strike first ask questions later



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Defensive Aggression

- Defensive aggression is a form of self-defense; the dog's underlying emotional state is anxiety and fear (but can turn to anger).



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Defensive Aggression - May also Show Alarm and/or Appeasement Signs

- Dog may show some of the “alarm” or “appeasement” signals described previously:
 - Whale eye
 - Dilated pupils
 - Lifting a paw
 - Rolling on back while still biting to protect



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Mixed Emotions = Vacillate Back & Forth

- A dog may show a “whale eye” (defensive) even though the ears and tail are erect (offensive).
 - Like humans, dogs often experience mixed emotions in any given situation, and their body language will then be more ambiguous
- It is important to take into account the entire situation and context when interpreting your dog’s signals



Courtesy Sandra Sandy Machado

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Aggression Video



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This slide features the DogNostics Career Center logo in the top left corner. The main title 'Aggression Video' is positioned in the top right. A central photograph shows two dogs, one white with brown spots and one solid brown, standing on a light-colored tiled floor. They are positioned near the legs of a light-colored wooden chair with a purple cushion. A small number '7' is located in the bottom right corner of the slide area, and a copyright notice 'Copyright DogNostics 2019' is at the bottom left. A small speaker icon is in the bottom right corner.

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Oh Dear!

I Just Don't Know Why They Tried To Bite



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This slide features the DogNostics Career Center logo in the top left corner. The main title 'Oh Dear!' is in the top center, followed by the subtitle 'I Just Don't Know Why They Tried To Bite' below it. A central photograph shows a brown dog sitting on a bed with a patterned bedspread. Next to the dog is a yellow and red bag of snacks. A copyright notice 'Copyright DogNostics 2019' is at the bottom left, and a small speaker icon is in the bottom right corner.

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When Is Aggression a Behavioral Problem

- The definition of aggression is any act that is meant to intimidate, scare or physically hurt another dog or person
- The definition of a behavioral problem is any behavior the owner has a problem with



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Preventing Aggression

- Select an appropriate dog
- Exercise dog
- Continually Socialize dog
- Training with Positive Reinforcement
- Manage the dog's environment
- NOTE – Puppy Biting is not aggression
 - A part of their social learning
 - Learning to develop bite inhibition



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Working With Aggressive Dogs

- We have an obligation to
 - The Dog
 - The Family
 - Your Business
 - The General Public

Consult a professional regarding

1. Behavior Change
2. Tools & Equipment
3. Management Plan
4. Feasibility of client



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Lesson Seven.
Ambivalent & Adjunctive Behaviors



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Ambivalent/Conflicted Behaviors



**WHEN A DOG IS IN
CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO
OR MORE SOCIAL
DIMENSIONS THEY MAY
VACILLATE BACK AND
FORTH SHOWING
DIFFERENT AND
CONFLICTING BODY
LANGUAGE**

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Ambivalent - Aggression/Appeasement

- Makes use of aggressive and appeasement behaviors, vacillating from one to the other, and sometimes vacillating between appeasement and flight.
 - The closer the dog gets to appeasement, the more consistent will the appeasement or flight behaviors be.
 - As the dog swings closer to the aggressive position, the more consistent will be the aggressive behaviors.



3

3

Ambivalent Behaviors – The Mouth

- Appeasing position dogs rarely show any teeth (except “submissive grin”).
- Aggressive position dogs usually show canines and incisors in a tight, forward “C” shape.
- Ambivalent position dogs will often make use of an open, wider “C-shaped” mouth position, showing more of the premolars and molars.
- In dogs that are ambivalent between appeasement and aggression piloerection often occurs.



4

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Ambivalent Behaviors – The Eyes

- Dilated pupils (no reduction in ambient lighting).
 - Significant autonomic nervous system activation is taking place, activation of the physiological fight-or-flight mechanism (promote escape from aversive stimulation).
 - If pushed dog may snarl and lunge or snap, swinging more to the aggressive dimension.
 - If dog cannot escape or prompt the other being to leave him alone, he may resort to biting.



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Adjunctive/Displacement Behaviors



**IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS,
BEHAVIORS COMMONLY
REFERRED TO IN
ETHOLOGY AS
DISPLACEMENT
BEHAVIORS OR
CUT OFF BEHAVIORS
ARE REFERRED TO AS
ADJUNCTIVE
BEHAVIORS - SOME
CONSIDER THEM
SIMILAR YET DISTINCT**

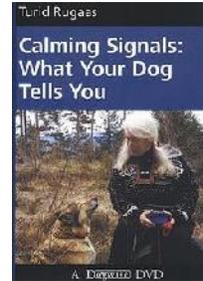
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Adjunctive Behavior

- Also called signs of stress, calming signals, cut off behaviors and displacement behavior.
- Displacement behavior is observed in the natural environment and is characterized as irrelevant, incongruous, or out of context.
 - **The activity of the dog does not make sense given the situation, and the displaced responses do not appear to follow from immediately preceding behavior.**



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Displacement Behaviors

- Turning of the head
- Sliding the eyes to one side
- Turning the body away
- Licking the lips or nose
- Freezing
- Moving slowly with pronounced moves
- Slower breathing



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Displacement Behavior – Appeasement

- Not seeing the fearful stimulus will help prevent the eliciting of the fear response.
- Not looking at something can be a big clue that a dog is afraid of that something!



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Lesson Eight Canine Greeting Rituals



**GREETING RITUALS
ARE A SPECIAL
CLASS OF
RITUALIZED MODAL
ACTION PATTERNS,
USED TO ACHIEVE
SPECIFIC
OUTCOMES.**

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Greeting Rituals



- When dogs greet each other, even after very brief absences, they usually reassess each other with a series of mutual probing displays and assessments.
- Greeting rituals also often include preemptive appeasement behaviors, which function to help reduce the chance of being treated in a hostile manner.

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Three Ritual Greeting Patterns

- Three basic greeting ritual patterns
 1. Lingual
 2. Inguinal
 3. Anogenital
- Why Are Greetings Ritualized?
 - Allow assessment
 - Flexible
 - Rules in play



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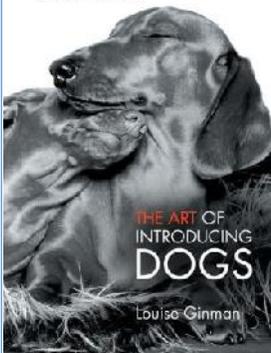
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Important Considerations

- How old are the dogs?
- What is the sex of the dogs?
- Is the greeting between
 - Adult to puppy
 - Adult to juvenile
 - Adult to adult
 - Juvenile to puppy
 - Male to male
 - Male to female
 - Female to female
 - Multiple



A guide for conducting dog-to-dog introductions.

THE ART OF INTRODUCING DOGS
Louise Ginman

4

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Additional Considerations

- **Play styles**
 - ✓ Chasing
 - ✓ Neck biting
 - ✓ Bating and spinning
 - ✓ Body slamming
- **Socialization History**
 - ✓ As a puppy
 - ✓ Ongoing as an adult
 - ✓ Bite inhibition
- **Restrictions**
 - ✓ On a leash
 - ✓ Small area/room/yard
 - ✓ Communication hindered



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Breed Differences

- **Sporting breeds:**
 - more extraverted and more direct approach
- **Herding breeds:**
 - more introverted and soft approach with keeping distance
- **Terriers:**
- **extraverted approach**
- **Breeds Clashing**
 - Sporting and herding or
 - terriers and herding can clash.



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Friendly Canine Greetings

A friendly canine greeting ceremony with another dog usually involves:

- An indirect approach:
 - approaching the other dog in an arc, as one dog circles around the side of the other dog so that the first dog's nose ends up near the other dog's hind end.
 - Sniffing the other dog thoroughly before any further interaction begins.
 - The tail may be wagging quickly including the spine being soft and curling.

A direct, head-on approach would be considered downright rude, and even threatening.

7

7

Intimidating Greeting Rituals

- Some dogs perform what we might consider “intimidating” behaviors. They may rest their chin or a paw on the other dog's back or the dorsal neck. They may mount the other dog, or, if the other dog lies down, they may stand over them.



8

8

Aggressive Dog Greetings

- Aggressive dogs will often stiffen and growl; they rarely tolerate the other dog moving during this process.
- Tail will wag with straight spine – not happy!
- The target dog may remain still until the “intimidator” disengages, use active or passive appeasement behaviors, or perform similar aggressive behaviors in return. *This may often result in a blustery display of lunging, snarling, snapping and sometimes biting.*

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Humans Can Hinder

- Tensing up, holding our breath and other signs of nervousness
- Standing still, which forces the dogs into a prolonged interaction
- Crowding (closing in or cornering them)
- Tightening up on the leash
- Insisting that the dogs work it out
- speaking in harsh or anxious tones
- Punishing the dogs.



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What To Do



- How do we respond
 - Stay calm
 - Talk in happy tones
 - Lighten the mood
 - Use a “Let’s Go” cue with no physical pressure
 - Allow, enable, manage a disengagement

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The Let’s Go

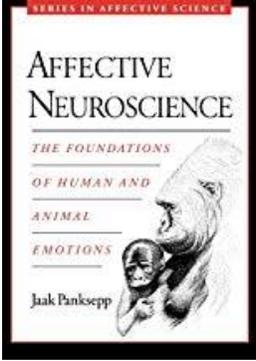


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Lesson Nine Canine Emotions

EMOTIONS CAN BE OBSERVED IN BODY LANGUAGE AND THEY CAN BE VERIFIED VIA CONSENT TESTING AND TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION



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What Are Emotions

- An emotion is a natural instinctive state of mind deriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships with others.
- They are event driven

What is a Feeling?

- Feelings are learned behaviors

Emotion happens in the body. Feelings are the experience of emotions and often take us out of the moment into the past. Feelings are used to talk about emotions!



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All Mammals Experience ..

The neuroscientist [Jaak Panksepp](#) described seven hypothetical subcortical circuits he believed cause all mammals to experience

- Joy (which he calls the PLAY system),
- Sadness and grief (the PANIC/LOSS system),
- Anger (the RAGE system),
- Anxiety and Fear (the FEAR system),
- Lust (the MATING system),
- Enthusiasm and Desire (the SEEKING system),
- Tenderness and Love (the CARE system).



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Why Are Emotions Important For Us

- We **MUST** recognize that dog experience emotions
- We know they cannot speak English, French or any other human language.
- They cannot express these Emotions as feelings
- We **NEED** to translate how they are feeling using
 - Canine Communication & Social Behavior
 - Preference Tests
 - Consent Tests



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Lesson Ten Consent Testing

**THE PROCESS OF VERIFYING EMOTIONS
PROMOTING TWO-WAY
COMMUNICATION**



YES
NO

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Consent Testing

2

Asking For Consent	Consent For Interaction
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is possible to ask a dog do you want to interact with me?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The dog moves away = no• The dog moves closer = yes• The dog does neither = maybe

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Consent Testing – Asking Questions?

- It is possible to ask a dog do you want to interact with me?
 - Dog moves away = no
 - Dog moves closer or does not move away = yes



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Consent Testing: No – Dog & Human

- Video 1: Consent Test NO – Dog and Human



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 **Consent Testing: Yes – Dog & Human**

- Video 2: Consent Test YES – Dog and human



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 **Consent Testing: NO**

- Video 3: Consent Test NO – Dog and Human



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 **Consent Testing: NO**

- Video 4: Consent Test NO – Two Dogs



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 **Consent Testing: Conflicted**

- Video 5: Consent Test Conflicted – Dog and Human



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Dog to Dog Consent Testing

- **Puppies**
 - Pull out of play and let go again
 - ✦ Rejoin play YES
 - ✦ Hide NO
- **Adult dogs**
 - You can teach a “look at” cue
 - ✦ Then give the cue “look at” and watch the body language
 - See if they give consent to go and say hello
 - Constantly monitor their body language for continued consent



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Results of Consent Testing

- **Never take results personally**
- **Work to develop a strong reinforcement history**
 - Play food games
 - Use toys to play games and have fun
 - Enjoy and do something with the dog like walks, etc



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Lesson Eleven Preference Testing

DETERMINING WHAT YOUR DOG PREFERS!





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Preference Testing

2

Which Reinforcer	Interaction & Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is possible to ask a dog which reinforcer they prefer by presenting two at the same time. YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The dog is empowered ○ The dog gets to choose ○ The dog can say YES to one or both or neither 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the dog have a preference over <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People ○ How they interact ○ A location

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What Can We Preference Test?

- Food
- Toys
- Locations
- People
- Tactile stimulation



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Social Preference and Motivational Strength Testing



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How to Do a Concurrent Preference Test

- Present two or more choices at the same time
- Observe dog's response
 - Determine the preference



5

5

Food Testing Preferences -Important Variables



- Two pieces of food *same* size
 - Dogs can determine large and small
- Repeat three times
 - Majority wins
- Pay attention to details
 - Snatching
 - Eye popping response
 - Which one they go for first

6

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Toy Preference Testing

- Present two toys simultaneously
- Repeat three times
 - Majority wins
- Pay attention to details
 - Snatching
 - Pulling harder
 - Playing longer
 - Which one they go for first



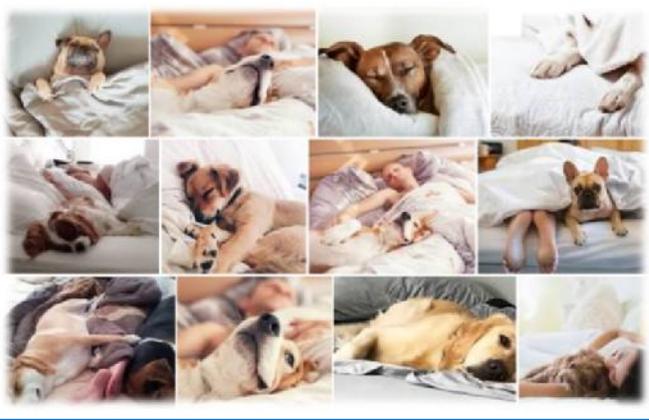
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Testing Location Preferences

- Location of bed
 - Warm seeking
 - Cool seeking
 - Quiet location
 - Central Pathway
 - Inside
 - Outside



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Testing Tactile Stimulation Preference

- Do one type of touch with one hand and another type with the other
 - Heavy pressure v. light pressure
 - Stroking v. scratching
 - Body position
 - ✦ Observe which type of pressure dog leans into



9

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Practical Application of Preference Testing

- Verify a dog's communication and emotional intent
- Increase and strengthen reinforcement history
- Provide opportunity for fun
- Improve quality of life
- Determine what the dog is choosing to do



10

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Lesson Twelve
Canine Motivational Conflict

COMMON TYPES OF CONFLICTED BEHAVIORS ARISE IN SITUATIONS OF MOTIVATIONAL CONFLICT.



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 **Motivational Conflict**

- Common types of conflicted behaviors arise in situations of motivational conflict.
 1. Approach–Approach conflicts
 2. Avoidance–Avoidance conflicts
 3. Approach–Avoidance conflicts

These first two types of motivational conflict are not nearly as common as approach–avoidance conflict.

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Conflict Scenarios

- Should I Stay or Should I Go?
- Oh No Which To Avoid?
- Decisions, Decisions!



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Avoidance Tendencies

- Grow Stronger
- Getting Cold Feet!



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Common Behavior in Motivational Conflict Situations

- *Vacillation* (going back and forth) is typical in situations of motivational conflict.
- If a dog is attracted to a person (an approach tendency) but feel shy and inhibited (an avoidance tendency) they may "go back and forth" a lot.

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Conflicted Dogs

- Dogs that are conflicted between approach-avoidance or avoidance-avoidance are at an increased risk for biting!



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Lesson Thirteen
Dog Bite Inhibition & Dog Bite Thresholds

**WHEN DOES A DOG CHOOSES TO USE
ITS MOUTH? IF IT DOES, HOW MUCH
DAMAGE DOES IT INFLICT**



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Education on Dog Bites

2

Bite Threshold	Bite Inhibition
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The point at which a dog decides to bite○ High threshold – takes many stressors to make them bite○ Low threshold – takes few stressors to make them bite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dog's bite inhibition is measured by what if any damage is caused once a dog decides to use its mouth

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Biting is a Behavior

- Biting is behavior and therefore can be modified with dog-human bite
 - Ian Dunbar believes levels 2 and below can be changed
 - Higher bite levels cannot be changed due to
 - ✦ Risk/safety
 - ✦ Ethics
 - ✦ Liability
 - ✦ Cannot modify dog-dog bites



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Argue versus Assault

- Dogs may argue as we do
- Dogs may get angry as we do
- But assault is out of the question for all of us



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Acquired Bite Inhibition

- ABI refers to the ability of a dog to bite with inhibited force



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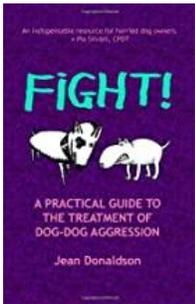
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Changing A Dogs Bite Inhibition

- No research only anecdotal information on changing bite inhibition with dogs
- Jean Donaldson has tried to change bite inhibition behavior on level 1 & level 2 bites and states
 “That in an emergency or stressful situation the bite inhibition is removed as you cannot generalize & proof the behavior”



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ABI - Ability Does Not Mean They Will

- A dog with great bite inhibition does not mean it will always choose to show it
- Different triggers may elicit different results
- Sedatives Can Lower Inhibition
 - Threshold may drop
 - Bite inhibition may drop



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Acquired Bite Inhibition Human vs. Dog

- ABI does not translate
- Be cautious with
 - Dogs with a low bite threshold for people
 - Dogs with a bite history with dogs



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Bite Threshold

A **threshold** is an amount, level, or limit on a scale. When the **threshold** is reached, something else happens or changes.

- At what point does a dog choose to use its mouth
- What has triggered it
- What are the stress factors
 - Remove the stress factors
 - Make sure the dog is under threshold

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/threshold>

9



Lesson Fourteen Canine Greeting People & People Greeting Canines



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Step One: Promoting Safe Canine Greetings

Situational Awareness & Assessment

- Assess the situation
 - Situational awareness of the dog
 - Location
 - Is the dog at home
 - Is the dog out and about
 - What is the Dog's Physical condition?
 - Does the Dog Have Restricted Movement?
 - Leash
 - Chain
 - Crate
 - Other confinement is the dog wearing?
 - Situational awareness of the guardians
 - Do they appear dog savvy or not?
 - Are they the owners or a care attendant?
 - How are they treating the dog?



Step Two: Promoting Safe Canine Greetings

Permission Seeking

- Based on your Situational "Awareness & Assessment" result proceed on if you are comfortable – Now Get Permission!
 - Silently ask the dog using observation
 - Verbally ask the owners
 - Reassess moving forward based on these two factors



Step Three: Promoting Safe Canine Greetings

Ongoing Consent Testing

- Ask the question
 - Is this ok?
 - Leave room for an exit ramp
 - Reinforce what the dog likes
 - Pause – Watch – Decide
 - Stop or
 - Continue



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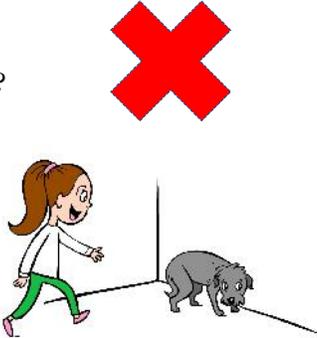
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Step One: Promoting Safe Canine Greetings

Situational Awareness & Assessment

- Assess the situation
 - Situational awareness of the dog
 - ✦ Location
 - Is the dog at home
 - Is the dog out and about
 - ✦ What is The Dogs Physical Condition
 - ✦ Does The Dog Have Restricted Movement?
 - Leash
 - Chain
 - Crate
 - What equipment is the dog wearing?
 - Situational awareness of the guardians
 - Do they appear dog savvy or not?
 - Are they the owners or a care attendant
 - How are they treating the dog?



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Step Two: Promoting Safe Canine Greetings

Permission Seeking

- Based on your Situational “Awareness & Assessment result proceed on if you are comfortable – Now Get Permission!
 - Silently ask the dog using observation 
 - Verbally ask the owners 
 - Reassess moving forward based on these two factors



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Tips on Greeting a Dog

- **Respect Canine Communication**
 - Stand sideways
 - If you speak, use a calm, reassuring tone.
 - Let the dog come to you
 - Have your hand rolled up by your side
 - Dogs like to sniff us – they gather information



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Step Three: Promoting Safe Canine Greetings

Ongoing Consent Testing

- **Ask the question**
 - Is this ok?
 - Leave room for an exit ramp
 - Reinforce what the dog likes
 - Pause – Watch – Decide
 - ✦ Stop or
 - ✦ Continue



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Stroking The Dog

- NOT on the top of the head
- Slow and gentle
- Side of the neck, under the chin, on the chest
- Observe the dog's position, movement and tiny communication
- Keep your body loose and relaxed. Putting on an easy smile or slowly blinking your eyelids will signal to the dog that you are not a threat.
- For dogs who are deaf or blind, take extra care not to make sudden movements that might startle them.

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Dogs Greeting People

- When dogs greet people, some variations on the dog-dog themes may be seen.
- The dog will be cautious or “confident,” social or “aloof,” or shades in between.
- The more cautious dog will rarely approach. If he is motivated sufficiently to approach, he will use cutoff or appeasement behaviors. He may approach wagging his tail so vigorously that his entire rear end wags with it.
- He may approach with a curved body as if to face the person, but also present his anogenital area for inspection. He will often rub his muzzle up against the person or sometimes jump up in order to lick the person’s face (particularly the mouth).

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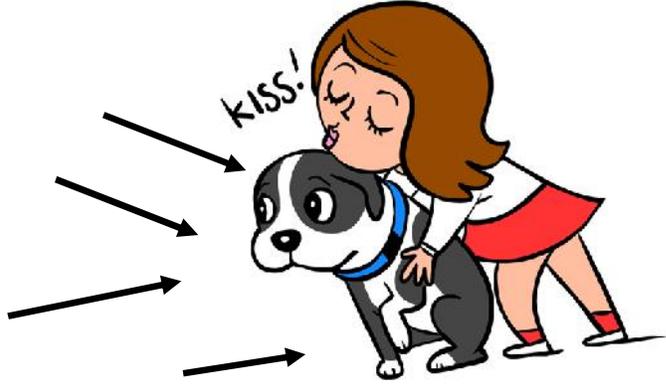
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Do Not HUG Dogs

Dogs do not like hugs and kisses!



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Recognize Appeasement Signals Used With People

- Licking muzzles or human faces
- Blinking or squinting
- Averting the eyes
- Tongue flicks (a modification of licking: very quick, small flicks of the tongue)
- Lifting a paw
- Rolling over to expose the belly
- “Submissive urination”, which is a small leakage of urine, usually during greeting or when the dog is excited or afraid; should not be confused with a housetraining “accident”.



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How Not To Greet a Dog

- Neglect
- Reach
- Quickly approach
- Face up close
- Approach from behind
- Believe all dogs love you



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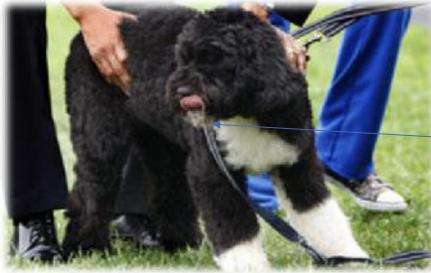
This slide features a list of six bullet points on the left side, detailing incorrect ways to greet a dog. On the right side, there is a cartoon illustration of a person with dark curly hair, wearing an orange shirt and blue pants, hugging a yellow dog from behind. The dog is sitting and looking towards the right. The slide has a blue footer with the text 'Copyright DogNostics 2019' and a small speaker icon on the right.

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Remember “Behavior is Rarely Out of No Where”

- Humans are prone to missing signals thus often say aggression occurred out of no where. Most of the time cut off signals and stress signals were missed.



Stressed dog

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This slide features a single bullet point on the left side, explaining that humans often miss signals of aggression or stress. On the right side, there is a photograph of a black and white dog on a leash, looking down with a stressed expression. A blue line points from the text 'Stressed dog' to the dog's face. The slide has a blue footer with the text 'Copyright DogNostics 2019' and a small speaker icon on the right.

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Be Careful Around Dogs Who Are Exposed To Punishment

- Dogs that have been punished for displaying cut off signals or communicating will stop and can trigger out of “no where”.
 - What Does This Mean
 - ✦ Don't punish the growl
 - Observe and act
 - Change the emotional behavior = change the overt behavior



13



Lesson Fifteen Dog Bite Hierarchies

WHY DO WE NEED HIERARCHIES?

- Level 1. Growls, shows teeth, stares, snaps no contact
- Level 2. Single bite, saliva, no puncture
- Level 3. Single bite. 1 to 4 punctures, ½ inch deep or less
- Level 4. Single bite 1 to 4 punctures. Greater than ½ inch deep. Bruising evident within 2 days for very hard bite
- Level 5. Multiple bites, mauling
- Level 6. Fatality

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The Need For Bite Hierarchies

- Assess Risks
- Past behavior predicts future behavior
- Common, uniformed language
 - With other professionals
 - Within the industry
 - Across pet care professionals, vets, groomers, day care operators
- Determine what clients you should take/work with or not take
- Which dogs should not leave home, visit dog parks etc

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Bite Hierarchies – The History

- Ian Dunbar
- James O’Heare – modified Ian Dunbar’s hierarchy
- Cara Shannon – added more levels and more tangible criteria for determining the level of bite inflicted

3

3

Types of Hierarchies

<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 1. Growls, shows teeth, stares, snaps no contact	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 2. Single bite, saliva, no puncture	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 3. Single bite. 1 to 4 punctures, 1/2 inch deep or less	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 4. Single bite 1 to 4 punctures. Greater than 1/2 inch deep. Bruising evident within 2 days for very hard bite	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 5. Multiple bites, mauling	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Level 6. Fatality	<input type="checkbox"/>



4

4



Points Regarding Dunbar Hierarchy

- Ian Dunbar's hierarchy has been the industry standard until now
 - James O’Heare modified it slightly in terms of the dog-dog bite levels
 - Cara Shannon released a new hierarchy in cooperation with Ian Dunbar & other industry experts
 - ✦ Accommodates both dog-dog bites & dog-human bites
 - ✦ Covers percentage of tooth penetration due to differing dog sizes
 - ✦ Focuses on bruising and appearance of wounds

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Ian Dunbar Bite Hierarchy

Dr. Ian Dunbar’s Dog Bite Classifications -- according to severity:

- Level 1-
 - Dog was scary and/or obnoxious - antagonistic behavior (growling, snapping) but no wound pathology or skin contact.
- Level 2 - Skin contact by teeth but no skin puncture.
 - May be nicks and slight bleeding caused by movement of teeth but no punctures.
 - For the most part, the majority of incidents are at level 1 & Level 2 and are easily workable.

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Ian Dunbar

- **Level 3 - One to four punctures from a single bite with no punctures deeper than half-length of the dog's canine teeth.**
 - May be lacerations in single direction due to pulling away.
 - Can be bad due to tear of one puncture (a little hole) into a laceration.
 - There is a huge transition between Level 2 and Level 3, with degrees of severity within the level:
 - Level 3 dogs present a serious risk.

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Ian Dunbar

- **Level 4 - One to four punctures from single bite with at least one puncture deeper than half the length of dog's canine teeth.**
 - May be deep bruising around the wound (dog held on and bore down) or lacerations in both directions
 - Dog held on and shook its head from side to side)
- **Level 5**
 - multiple bite incidents with at least two level 4 bites.
- **Level 6**
 - Flesh consumed or victim dead.

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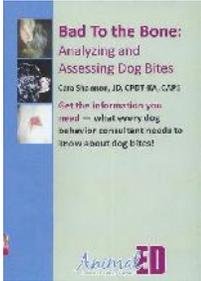
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Cara Shannon Dog Bite Hierarchies

- Looks at mitigating and aggravating circumstances
- Key difference is level 0 which is an air snap
 - Does not consider any other behavior a bite, Things like snapping, snarling, growling
 - ✦ The dog has not yet moved above threshold and decided to use its mouth



Recommended DVD Bad to the Bone at Dogwise

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Example of Cara Shannon Hierarchy

- A bite with pressure but no hold.
- There is no report of shaking or pathology to indicate shaking or crushing.
- There are puncture wounds from the canine teeth
- Estimates would indicate that between 30 to 50 % of the dog's canine teeth entered the victim's body.
- There may be wounds from the incisors but there should not be wounds from the premolars.
- Bruising will be darker gray or purple and black.

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Lesson 16 Analyzing Dog Bites



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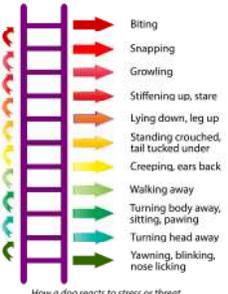
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The Dog Bite Sequence

- The progression for a dog biting
 1. Dog freezes and is uncomfortable
 2. Growling
 3. Snapping
 4. Biting
 - Dogs that have been punished for warning signals will usually not show warnings or progression → *stealth attack*

The Canine 'Ladder of Aggression'



How a dog reacts to stress or threat ©David Hejzlik, 2005

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Punishment is Dangerous

- Punishment stops behavior
- Negative reinforcement is also problematic
- Aggression is an emotional issue not behavior issue
- Stopping the behavior removes warning signals
 - Barking
 - Lunging
 - Growling
 - Signs of stress

Level 1. Growls, shows teeth, snags no contact

Level 2. Single bite, saliva, no puncture

Level 3. Single bite, 1 to 4 punctures, 1/8 inch deep or less

Level 4. Single bite or 4 punctures, Greater than 1/8 inch deep. Bruising evident within 2 days for very hard bite

Level 5. Multiple bites, mauling

Level 6. Fatality

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Dog Bite Damage - Bruising

- Ranges from Light Grey, medium grey, dark grey and deep purple/ Black

Must consider

- Age of the victim
- Medication they may be on
- Age of the bite – old bites go brown/yellow






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Damage – The Hands

- Bruising is not often seen on the hands due to lack of tissue
 - A bruise on the hand indicates a hard bite – higher level
 - Unless the person is obese and has lots of skin and tissue



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Must Consider Mitigating & Aggravating Circumstances

- How much effort did the dog need to bite the body part
- What was the context
- Mitigating versus aggravating circumstances

What is the intensity of the behavior – how much effort was placed into it?

- ✦ Bite to the face or upper body
- ✦ Bite to the hand or the thigh

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Things To Consider Ref Damage?

- Depth of teeth marks, bruising, ripping, tearing
- Body location
- Age of victim
- Any medication the victim is on – blood thinners
- Tearing of clothes
- What clothes was the victim wearing



7

Level 2 Bite

- Skin contact by teeth but no skin puncture.
- May be nicks and slight bleeding caused by movement of teeth but no punctures.



8

Level 3 Bite

- One to four punctures from a single bite with no punctures deeper than half-length of the dog's canine teeth.
- May be lacerations in single direction due to pulling away.
- Level 3 can be bad due to tear of one puncture (a little hole) into a laceration.



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Level 4 Bite

- One to four punctures from single bite with at least one puncture deeper than half the length of dog's canine teeth.
- May be deep bruising around the wound (dog held on and bore down) or lacerations in both directions
- (Dog held on and shook its head from side to side)



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Level 5 Bite

- Multiple bite incidents with at least two level 4 bites.



Level 4. Single bite 1 to 4 punctures. Greater than 1/2 inch deep. Bruising evident within 2 days for very hard bite

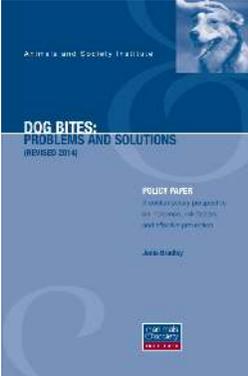
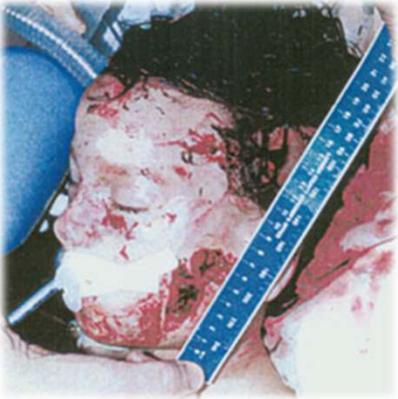
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Level 6 Bite

- Flesh consumed or victim dead.



Dog bite-related fatalities are extremely rare. For every 11 million people living in the United States, approximately one per year dies as a result of dog bite.

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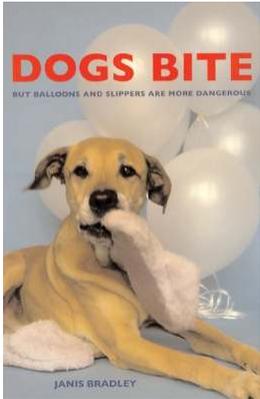
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Do Not Cause Hysteria

- Dogs are dangerous. And they are more dangerous to children than to adults
- Not as dangerous of course, as kitchen utensils, drapery cords, five-gallon water buckets, horses, or cows. Not nearly as dangerous as playground equipment, swimming pools, skateboards, or bikes. And not remotely as dangerous as family, friends, guns, or cars.

Janis Bradley



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Dog – Dog Bites

- They have their own hierarchy
- Important things to consider
 - Wounds
 - Location of bite
 - Mitigating and aggravating circumstances



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Dog Bite – What Kind of Wound

- Scratches are superficial – often not found until scabbing forms
- Bite and release, small punctures
- Lacerations and punctures
- Deep Punctures
- Clamping, shaking
- NO WOUNDS



Level 1. Growls, shows teeth, stares, snaps no contact

Level 2. Single bite, saliva, no puncture

Level 3. Single bite to back, head or back of the neck, 1 to 4 punctures, 1/2 inch deep

Level 4. Single bite 1 to 4 punctures, Greater than 1/2 inch deep, Shakes or bites feet, legs or abdomen

Level 5. Multiple bites, mauling

Level 6. Fatality

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Dog Bite - NO WOUNDS

- This can be very serious
 - Internal wounds only
 - Dogs skin can be elastic and serious damage can take place without any external wound
 - ✦ Dog in shock
 - ✦ Vomiting
 - ✦ Uncomfortable, rib displacement

Very rarely seen with Dog-Human Bite

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Dog Bite Location

- **Location is critical information**
 - Context of bite is also critical
 - Wounds to the legs, groin and lower neck are very severe
 - Was the dog the victim
 - Did the aggressor continue on after a submission
 - Amount of bleeding can be misleading
 - Tongue, ears, lips bleed badly
 - Tip of tail bleeds badly

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Mitigating & Aggravating Circumstances

- Size of dog – differential – percentage of tooth penetration
- Breed of dog – damage to a husky would be less than a whippet due to the skin and fur
- Effort made – how intense was the bite behavior
- Were the leg or neck or groin bitten by a victim trying to escape by the dog who was attacking



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Dog Bites on Stock Animals



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As Professionals

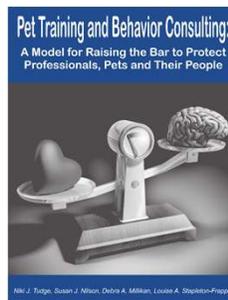
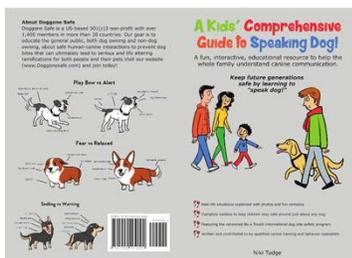
- We should not be getting bitten nor others bitten on our watch
 - Canine Social Behavior & Communication
 - ✦ Understand active appeasement and passive appeasement
 - Follow safety protocols
 - ✦ Use management tools, muzzles, tethers, our knowledge and skill of humane and nonthreatening methods
 - Never put a dog above, or work with a dog over threshold
 - ✦ Functional Assessments – we should know the triggers

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Important Resources



**Lesson Seventeen
Canine Vocal Communications**



**WHAT DO ALL THE
YELPS, BARKS AND
WHINES MEANS**

1

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Dogs Bark For May Reasons!

2

Why Dogs Bark	What To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attention• Social facilitation• Fear or Anxiety• Territorial• Boredom• Pain or suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add enrichment• Widen living environment• Remove fear factor• Teach an alternative behavior• Seek medical advice

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Barking Sub Types – Study One

[Animal Behaviour Volume 68, Issue 2](#), August 2004, Pages 343–355

Barking in domestic dogs: context specificity and individual identification

[Sophia Yin^{1,2}](#), [Brenda McCowan^{1,4}](#)

- This study sought to determine whether dog barks could be divided into subtypes based on context
- Three different test situations:
 - (1) a disturbance situation -doorbell,
 - (2) an isolation situation -dog was locked outside
 - (3) a play situation
- Statistical analyses revealed that barks are graded vocalizations that range from harsh, low-frequency, unmodulated calls to harmonically rich, higher-frequency, modulated calls

3

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Barking Sub Types

- Low-frequency, were more commonly given in the disturbance situation
- Higher-pitch, modulated barks were more commonly given in the isolation and play situations
- Disturbance barks were also longer in duration with more rapid repetition than the barks given in other contexts



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Barking Communication - Study Two

Animal Cognition December 2000, Volume 3, Issue 3, pp 159-166
Intentional behaviour in dog-human communication: an experimental analysis of “showing” behaviour in the dog A. Miklósi, R. Polgárdi, J. Topál, V. Csányi

- Investigate whether dogs engage in functional referential communication with their owners
- “Showing” is defined as a communicative action consisting of both a directional component and an attention-getting component
- In our experimental situation dogs witness the hiding of a piece of food (or a favorite toy) which they cannot get access to. We asked whether dogs would engage in “showing” in the presence of their owner
- Dogs’ gazing frequency at both the food (toy) and the owner was greater when only one of these was present. In other words, dogs looked more frequently at their owner when the food (toy) was present, and they looked more at the location of the food (toy) when the owner was present

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Barking Communication

- When both the food (toy) and the owner were present a new behaviour, “gaze alternation”
- Vocalizations that occurred in this phase were always associated with gazing at the owner or the location of the food
- Dogs might be able to engage in functionally referential communication with their owner, and their behaviour could be described as a form of “showing”



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Humans Recognize Types of Barks – Study Three

Journal of Comparative Psychology, 2005, Vol. 119, No. 2, 136 –144 Human Listeners Are Able to Classify Dog (Canis familiaris) Barks Recorded in Different Situations. Peter Pongracz and Adam Miklosi

- The authors investigated whether human listeners could categorize played-back dog (Canis familiaris) barks recorded in various situations and associate them with emotional ratings
- Prerecorded barks of a Hungarian herding dog breed (Mudi) provided the sample. Human listeners were asked to rate emotionality of the vocalization and to categorize the situations on the basis of alternative situations provided on a questionnaire

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Humans Recognize Types of Barks

- The authors found almost no effect of previous experience with the given dog breed or of owning a dog
- Listeners were able to categorize bark situations
- Humans' ability to recognize meaning suggests that barks could serve as an effective means of communication between dog and human



8

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Emotionality and Barking – Study Four

[Applied Animal Behaviour Science](#) Volume 100, Issues 3–4, November 2006, Pages 228–240

Acoustic parameters of dog barks carry emotional information for humans. [Péter Pongrácz](#), [Csaba Molnár](#), [Ádám Miklósi](#)

- We investigated low, hoarse sounds indicating aggression; high pitched, tonal sounds indicating subordination/fear)
- People with different experience with dogs were asked to describe the emotional content of several artificially assembled bark sequences on the basis of five emotional states (aggressiveness, fear, despair, playfulness, happiness)
- The selection of the barks was based on low, medium and high values of tonality and peak frequency. For assembling artificial bark sequences, we used short, middle or long inter-bark intervals

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Emotionality and Barking

- We found that humans with different levels of experience with dogs described the emotional content of the bark sequences quite similarly
- Low pitched barks were described as aggressive, and tonal and high-pitched barks were scored as either fearful or desperate, but always without aggressiveness
- In general, tonality of the bark sequence had much less effect than the pitch of the sounds



10

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 **Emotionality and Barking**

- Inter-bark intervals had a strong effect on the emotionality of dog barks for the human listeners
- Bark sequences with short inter-bark intervals were scored as aggressive
- Bark sequences with longer inter-bark intervals were scored with low values of aggression



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 **Emotionality and Barking**

- High pitched bark sequences with long inter-bark intervals were considered happy and playful
- Findings suggest that dog barks may present a functional system for communication at least in the dog–human relationship
- In sum it seems that many types of different emotions can be expressed with the variation of at least three acoustic parameters

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**Lesson Eighteen
The Tail End**

WHAT IS IN A TAIL?



1

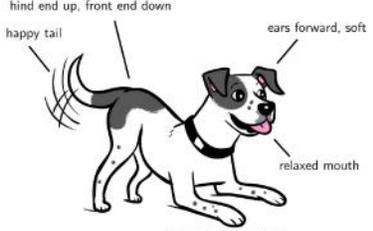
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1

Play Bow vs Alert

hind end up, front end down

happy tail



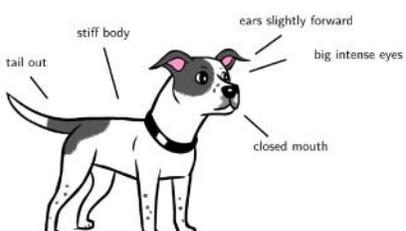
elbows touching floor

ears forward, soft

relaxed mouth

stiff body

tail out



ears slightly forward

big intense eyes

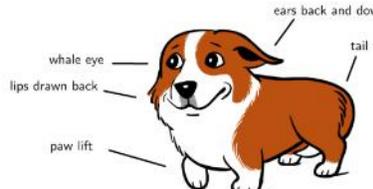
closed mouth

Fear vs Relaxed

whale eye

lips drawn back

paw lift



ears back and down

tail tucked

soft squinty eyes

relaxed mouth

relaxed body



tail gently wagging

1

2

**Dogs Talk with Their Tails -
But Can We Understand?**

The Whole Body Wag



[doggone !\[\]\(cadcbe197e9ab379f252582d559b424b_img.jpg\) safe.com](http://doggoneheart.safe.com)

Sometimes a dog is so happy and excited that the whole dog wags in a frenzy of activity. Again a dog this excited should not be allowed to interact with children until he calms down.

#DogBiteSafety



3

**Dogs Talk with Their Tails -
But Can We Understand?**

The Slow Wag



[doggone !\[\]\(579f1481faf96f337a35a22625cc9035_img.jpg\) safe.com](http://doggoneheart.safe.com)

The slow wag, if accompanied by a generally stiff body is also a sign of danger. This dog is making a decision and he may decide that he does not want to meet you.

#DogBiteSafety



4

Dogs Talk with Their Tails -
But Can We Understand?

The High Tail



doggone  safe.com

If a dog holds his tail high over his back, whether wagging stiffly or held still, this is a warning to back off.

If your dog puts his tail up to you or your children, this could be a sign of impending trouble.

#DogBiteSafety



5

Dogs Talk with Their Tails -
But Can We Understand?

The Calm Wag



doggone  safe.com

The calm wag is a loosely wagging tail, with the tail held below the level of the dog's back.

For breeds that naturally curl their tail over their backs, the tail will be held high, but the wag is loose.

The calm wag, accompanied by a smiling panting face.

#DogBiteSafety



6