

Canine Communication

**By: Anna Ramirez, Customer
Service Specialist**

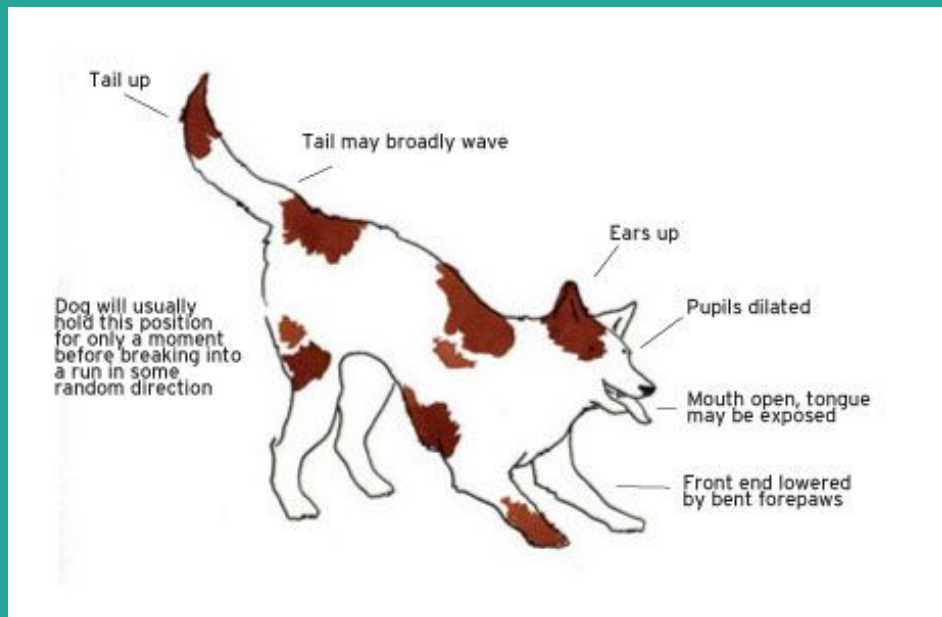


How Dogs Communicate:

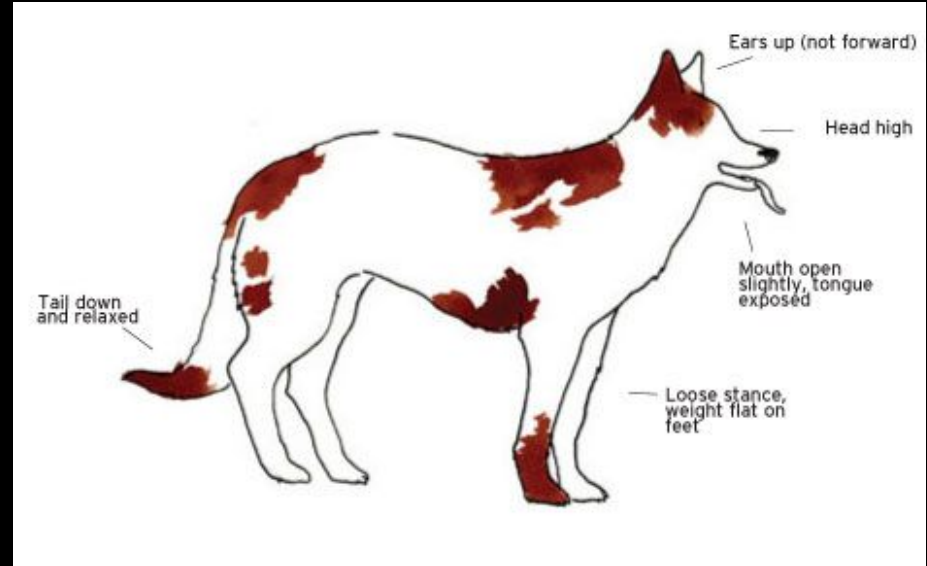


- Dogs use their bodies as a primary means of communication.
- Most commonly used body parts include, but are not limited to: posture, ear and tail direction/movement, gaze.
- Dogs make every effort possible to “communicate”, before approaching or while being approached.

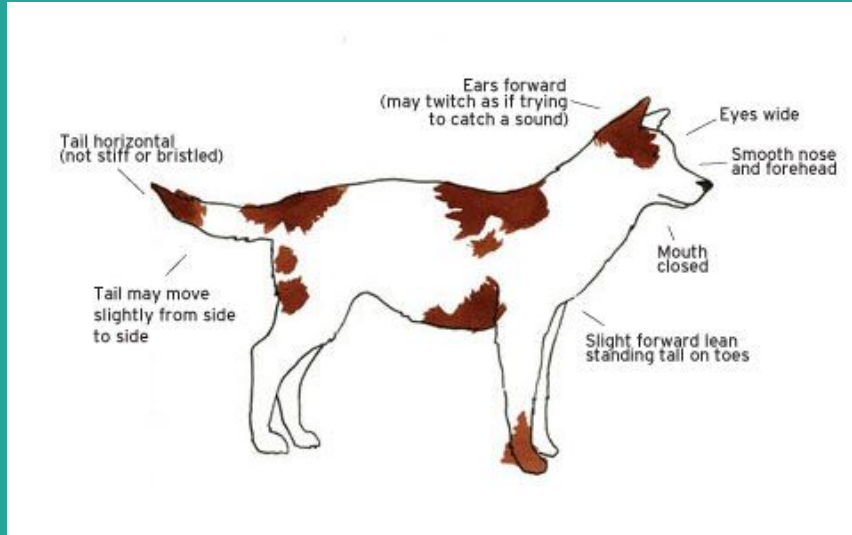
“Invitational” Body Language:



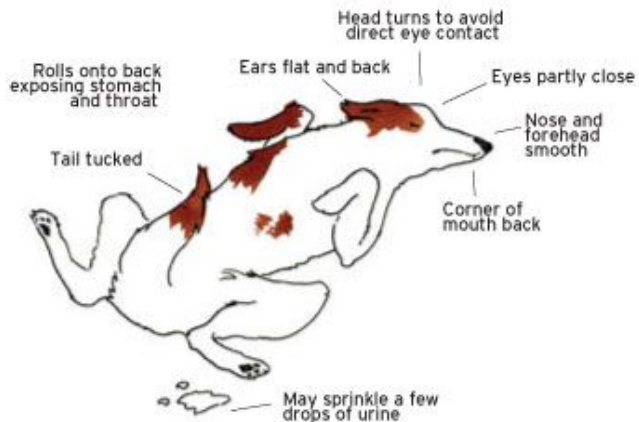
“Approachable” Body Language:



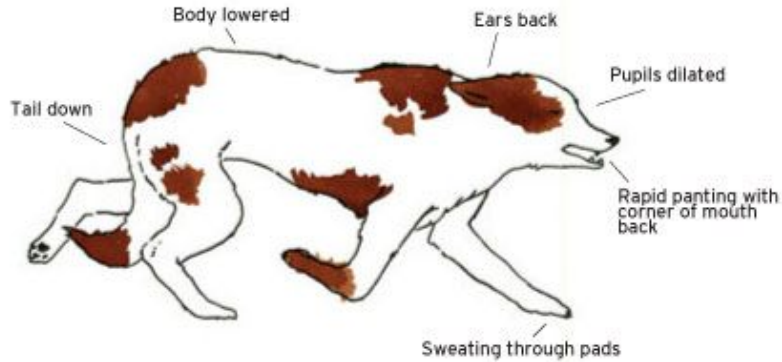
“On Alert” Body Language:



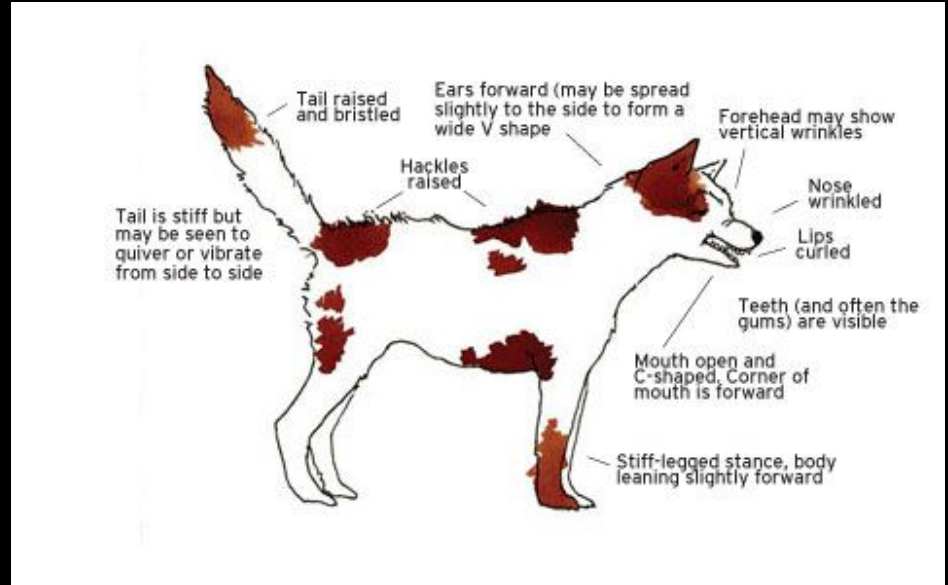
“Submissive” Body Language:



“Nervous” Body Language:



“Defensive” Body Language:



Appropriate Reactions: “Invitational” & “Approachable” Body Language

Always ask for owner permission, regardless of how friendly a pet appears.

Approach confidently with the back side of your hand exposed (for sniffing) with a closed fist.

Do not hover, but rather, lower your body so that your side is facing the dog.

Avoid direct eye contact and respect their space.



Appropriate Reactions:

“On Alert” & “Submissive” Body Language

Ask the pet owner if their pet likes strangers. If met with any doubt, do not approach

Approach slowly with the back side of your hand exposed (for sniffing) with a closed fist.

Do not hover, but rather, lower your body. Leave a foot (or more) of space between you and the dog.

Avoid direct eye contact and allow the dog to approach you, *should it wish*.



Appropriate Reactions: “Nervous” & “Defensive” Body Language

Ask owner if you are safe to continue past the pet. If not, do not pass.

Walk directly past the dog without making eye contact.

Do not attempt to approach or touch the dog. If the dog is using it's body to tell you to “stay away”, the next step *could* be a bite.



Things To Remember:



- We (as the human component) are responsible for successful dog-to-person interaction(s).
- Be aware of your own body language and “cues” at all times.
- Remain calm during any interaction. Fearful or nervous pheromones are easily detected by dogs.