



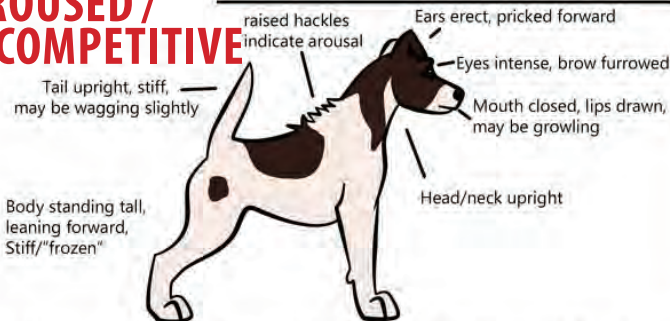
Dog body language

HALL VETERINARY SURGERY BEHAVIOUR ADVICE

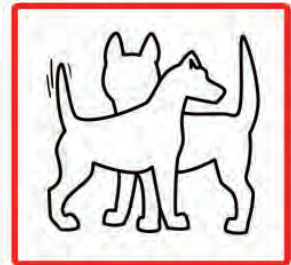
In puppy classes at Hall Veterinary Surgery we teach you some of the more common dog body language so you can find friendly play mates suitable for your dog. Different breeds of dogs have preferences for different games; the working dogs and sight hounds like to play chase and be chased, the labradors like wrestling games, the fighting breeds play a rough wrestle and pin game. Because the game styles are different, problems can arise when different breeds get together for play. For example the working dog does not like to be physically roughed up by the Terriers.

Learning what body language depicts competitive, co-operative, relaxed playful and/or conflicted can help you keep your dog safe.

AROUSAL / COMPETITIVE

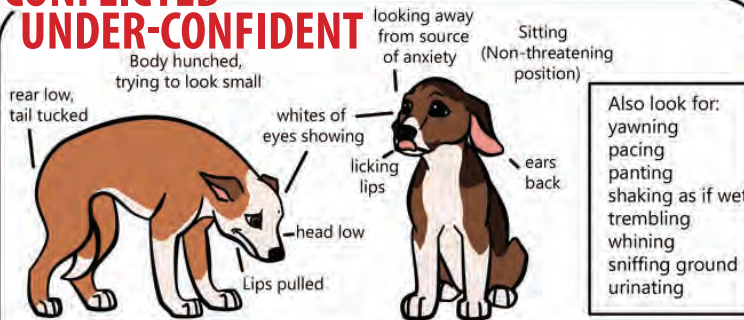


This dog is intensely focused on something. He may be looking at a ball, a cat, or an intruder. He may be preparing to rush up to another dog to play, or attack. If confronting another dog, he is transmitting the message, "Back down buddy".



This is a competitive stand-off – both dogs aroused with high stance and tails raised and quivering at the tip. An argument may occur.

CONFLICTED UNDER-CONFIDENT



Also look for:
yawning
pacing
panting
shaking as if wet
trembling
whining
sniffing ground
urinating

Any dog that fears for its safety will bite. The more stressed a dog is, the closer he becomes to his bite threshold. Not all dogs enjoy the dog park. If your dog shows signs of stress, consider bringing them back at a less busy time.

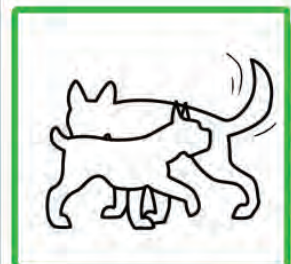


The dog on the left is saying, "I am no threat!", but the other dog may not like having its face licked! A dog using this type of greeting likely lacks confidence.

PLAYFUL CO-OPERATIVE, RELAXED



These dogs are relaxed, confident, and ready to play!



These dogs are giving a friendly greeting, sniffing each other, and wagging their tails loosely.

< THESE ARE THE PLAY TAILS WE LIKE TO SEE