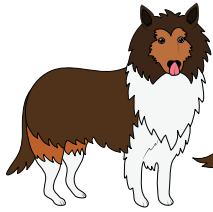
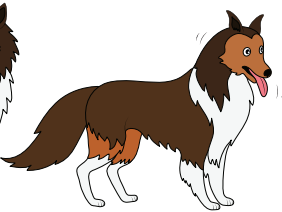


INTERPRETING DOG COMMUNICATION - AKA BODY LANGUAGE

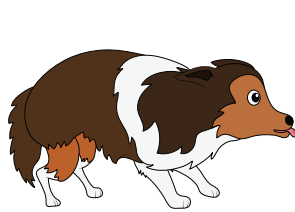
LOWER STAGES OF STRESS/ANXIETY



LIP LICKING OR TONGUE FLICKING
No food present



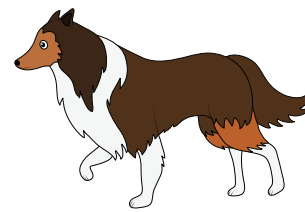
PANTING
Ambient Temp Mild
Not Thirsty.
Indicated a rise in
dogs internal temperature



ANXIOUS
Ears folded back,
Slight crouch, slight
panting or lip licking



**PINCHED BROW,
EARS TO SIDE**
Concerned,
worried.



SLOW MOTION
Using caution to move
away, from situation.
Paw lift = Concerned

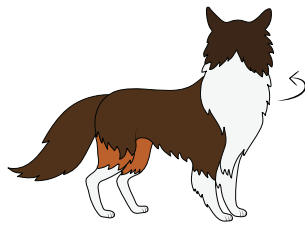


YAWNING OR SLEEPY LOOK
Clearly not tired.
This indicates the dog
asking you or others to
calm down.

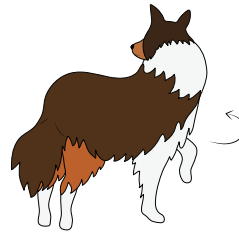
LEAVE ME ALONE, GIVE ME SPACE/RESPECT OR I WANT PEACE



WHALE EYE
shows whites of
their eyes



HEAD TURN
or the look away



TURN AWAY
Full body turn
away & might
move away



SHOWING THEIR BACK
Gives you a complete
view of their back
"Leave me alone please"



GROUND SNIFF
Intentionally sniffing
ground to say
"im not interested"

CURIOS VS. ALERT VS. SUSPICIOUS

BEGINNING TO GET PANICKY



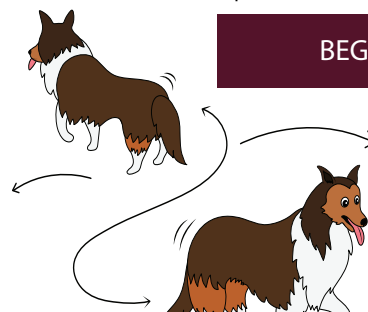
CURIOS
Ears pricked
forward listening
with a head tilt



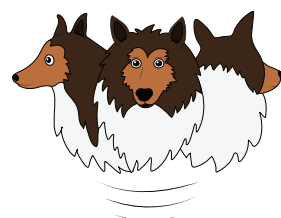
ALERT
Ears pricked
forward listening



SUSPICIOUS
Ears pricked, Hackles Up,
Hair on their back standing up
'Piloerection'

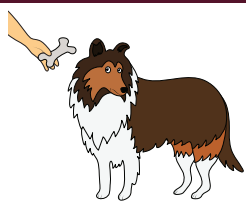


PACING
Showing clear
nervousness,
could include panting



HYPERVIGILANT
Constant scanning
of room.

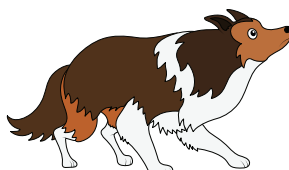
HIGHER STAGES OF FEAR - ESCALATING FROM ANXIOUS TO WHAT MIGHT APPEAR AS AGGRESSION



WILL NOT EAT
Ate fine earlier



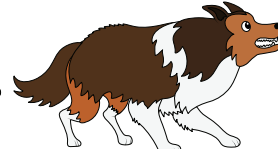
MOVING AWAY
Especially away
from stressor



SLIGHT COWER
Lowered body
Worried eyes
Ears slightly down



MAJOR COWER
Tucked in body
Tail under body
Ears flat and back



THREATENED
Barking or Growling
Crouching to make
itself look smaller



ANGRY
Lunging, Barking
Fur on end to make
itself look bigger

INTERPRETING DOG COMMUNICATION - AKA BODY LANGUAGE

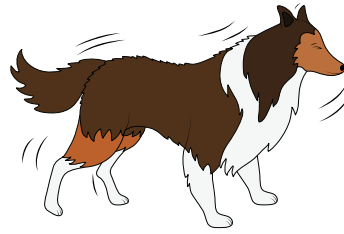
FRUSTRATION - TENSION RELEASE, RELAXED & LICKING



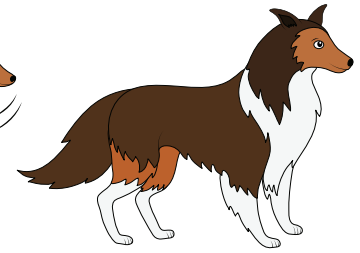
SCRATCHING
stops, sits, and scratches



LICKING
Appeasement Licking
"I want to taste you or I'm ok are you ok?"

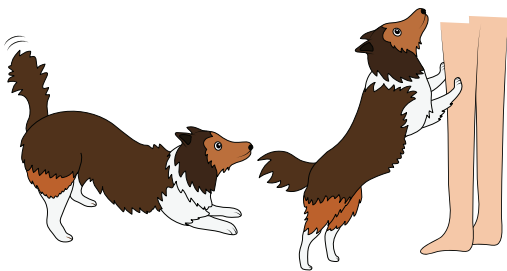


SHAKING OFF
Usually starts at head and ends at tail
Shakes their body, like trying to shake water off, but they are not wet.
Indicate - "I just experienced something, and I need to release the tension in my body"



RELAXED
Soft ears, Soft mouth,
Eyes almond & Blinking

FRIENDLY GREETINGS



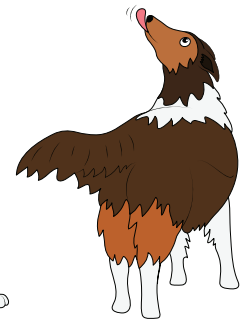
STRETCHING
Looks like a play bow, but is much longer stretch, can also be paws up on a human as a stretch.



POLITE & FRIENDLY
Soft ears, Soft round eyes, Soft mouth



PLAY BOW
With tongue out,
Tail wagging fast
"I'm friendly"



WIGGLE LICK
With tongue licking, Tail wagging fast, Curved body & Wiggling.
"I'm happy to see you"



PRETTY PLEASE
Asking for what ever you have.



PREY BOW
With tongue out, Tail wagging slow or more stiff as if they are ready to pounce



BELLY RUB PLEASE
This pose with humans, can be asking to rub belly. This pose with other dogs, can be - I am no threat. Sometimes misinterpreted as "submissive".



FEED ME PLEASE
Eyes looking up, Ears pricked forward can be with licking of full mouth

ASKING BEHAVIOR

HAPPY AND FUN



HAPPY
Squinty eyes, soft mouth, ears soft, might have tongue out.



OVER JOYED
Tail wagging, and feet changing as if dancing. Body can be wiggling.



MMMM
Getting scratched and liking it. Soft ears, Closed eyes



DON'T STOP
Licking, wiggling, leaning into the scratch



THE MEANING OF A TAIL WAG

NOT ALL TAIL WAGS ARE THE SAME

Tail wags can only be connected to behavior if you look at the whole body and positioning of each body part. Facial features, leaning, fur stance, tension, tightness and more.

Tails wag to left associated with left brain and negative feelings and to right associated with right brain and positive feelings. Left and right is the dogs, left and right.

Speed of the wag indicates stimulation, excitement, over arousal with fast wags and slow wags indicate neutrality, concern, anxiety and fear. Let's interpret some tail communication

NEUTRAL

Bored or neutral
Could care less.



Low curved
No wagging

HAPPY

Happy
Your my favorite



Slightly raised,
fast sweep wags
to the right.

EXCITED

Super happy
Your my favorite



Slightly raised,
bum wiggling
wide sweeps.

Super happy
Hi Friend,
Lets Play!



Fast wag to right
with play bow.

CONFIDENT

I'm confident



High tail,
stiff curved

NEGOTIATE

I'm negotiating or
feeling tense



Tail stops wagging,
and becomes stiff.
typically in high neutral

ALERT

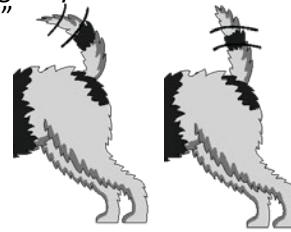
I'm on high alert.
Not quite
sure, how
I feel.



High tail,
stiff straight
Shifts from neutral
position to erect.

WARNINGS

I'm asking for you to
"Back off"



High tail
straight or curved,
stiff short fast wags.
Shifts from neutral
position to erect.

DEFENSE

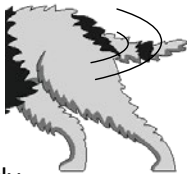
Feeling defensive or
I have to protect myself.



Low straight and
puffed. No wagging,
Barking, Growling,
Hackles raised

CONCERNED

I'm unsure
and nervous



Slow sweep
wagging, mostly
to the left. Low
or neutral position.
Body stretching out.

AFRAID

I'm feeling scared



Tail tucked
between legs.
Body could
be shivering

ANXIOUS

I'm feeling anxious,
or intimidated



Slow short stroke
wagging, mostly
to the left.
Typically, lower.

CURIOS

I'm curious



Tail straight
out, no wagging.
Below neutral
Stretching to smell

NOTE

- NOT ALL TAIL WAGS ARE THE SAME
- You can't look at a tail alone to determine what is happening with your pup
- Look at context - What is happening in the environment
- Help the pup when they are feeling anxious, stressed, nervous, fearful, or angry
- Know your dogs typical tail position. Some hold their tails high, some low. What is their typical relaxed position? Go from their to determine their emotions.

