

Identifying Emotional States of Your Dog.

Level 1: Identifying Basic Dog Emotions.

Purpose: The goal of this exercise is to identify how body and tail posture, ears, eyes, and mouth all provide strong clues to your dog's emotional state.	Dog Skills	People Skills
	Communicating to humans	Observation
	Communicating to other dogs.	Recognizing Emotions
		Taking pre-emptive action
Steps	Click Points	Tag Points
1. Review the attached chart regarding basic dog emotions. 2. Note body postures that indicate a relaxed dog versus a stressed dog. 3. Note ear, eye and mouth postures that indicate a relaxed dog versus a stressed dog. 4. Observe your dog for 5 minutes while your partner: a) ignores the dog; b) pays attention to your dog and gives him hugs and pets; c) begins teaching a new behavior; d) moving towards and interacting with another dog; and e) prevents your dog from playing with another dog or getting to the toy/treat it wants (1 minute each) 5. Record your observations on the Emotional Signals Observation chart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationally define your definition of a relaxed versus stressed dog. • Compare your dog's emotional state across the various conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationally define emotions. • Situations can be triggers.
Good for building these other behaviors: Recognizing stress versus relaxed postures in dogs improves your interaction with not only your own dog, but with other dogs. This can help you prevent aggression and frustration in your dog.		
At home fun: Practice observing body postures and emotional responses in dogs in your environment.		

Emotional Signals Observation Chart

Activity/Situation	Mouth	Ears	Eyes	Tail	Posture
Ignore					
Notes:					
Praise and Touch					
Notes:					
Teach new Behavior					
Notes:					
Interact with other dogs					
Notes:					
Prevent interaction with toy or treat					
Notes:					

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Level 2: Identifying Dog Emotions in a Group of Dogs

Purpose: The goal of this exercise is to identify how body and tail posture, ears, eyes, and mouth are critical to predicting behavior with a group of dogs.	Dog Skills	People Skills
	Communicating to humans	Observation
	Communicating to other dogs.	Recognizing Emotions
		Taking pre-emptive action
Steps	Click Points	Tag Points
1. Review the attached chart regarding basic dog emotions. 2. Note body postures that indicate a relaxed dog versus a stressed dog. 3. Note ear, eye and mouth postures that indicate a relaxed dog versus a stressed dog. 4. Observe a group of dogs for 5 minutes. Record your observations for each dog for 1 minute, then begin to watch/record a second, third, etc., dog. 5. Record your observations on the Emotional Signals Observation chart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationally define your definition of a relaxed versus stressed dog. • Compare your dog's emotional state across the various conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationally define emotions. • Situations can be triggers.
Good for building these other behaviors: Recognizing stress versus relaxed postures in dogs improves your interaction with not only your own dog, but with other dogs. This can help you prevent aggression and frustration in your dog.		
At home fun: Practice observing body postures and emotional responses in dogs in your environment.		

Emotional Signals Observation Chart

Activity/Situation	Mouth	Ears	Eyes	Tail	Posture
Ignore					
Notes:					
Praise and Touch					
Notes:					
Teach new Behavior					
Notes:					
Interact with other dogs					
Notes:					
Prevent interaction with toy or treat					
Notes:					

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS
head tilt



HAPPY
(or hot)



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"MMMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"