

1 **Instincts, Emotions and Body Language**

Part 3

2 **Body Language**

- Dogs are non-verbal
 - Their communication is nonverbal, usually unconscious, communication through the use of postures, gestures, facial expressions, and the like

Body language always illustrates an emotion or intention

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- Dogs often do not understand the language of other dogs
 - Particularly if they have been raised with little exposure to a variety of breed types
- Dogs often do not understand the body language of humans
 - Particularly if they have not been socialized appropriately

4 **Communication**

- Reading some dogs can be very difficult ---- particularly dogs that do not have bodies or faces designed for transparency

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6 **Generally Speaking**

- The looser the body, the more relaxed and possibly friendly the dog is
- The tighter and more tense the body is, the less friendly he or she is

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- Friendly - open mouth, loose body and tail, fluid gait, relaxed ears, soft eyes
- Tense or stressed - mouth open or closed tightly, tight body ears to the side or pinned, stiff gate, dilated or constricted pupils
- Angry - showing teeth, tight body and tail, tight gait, hard eyes

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9 **"Wolfie" Faces tend to be easier to read...**

10 **Molossers**

- Dogs that originated in the Mountains of Europe – St. Bernard, Newfoundland, Bernese Mountain Dog, Mastiffs ... Leonbergers –

tend to be more difficult

–Drop Ears, very hairy faces, limited outlining of eyes and mouth

11 **Neotenzation**

- The Molossers are actually *neotimized* – bred over centuries to look less wolf-like and to behave in a non-wolf like manner
 - Appearance
 - Rounded head, dropped ears and shortened muzzles are reminiscent of puppies
 - Behavior is also neotimized
 - Often do not have the range of expressions and behaviors as more wolfy dogs
 - Some precursors to aggression are often missing (eye-stalk, stare), which can lead to behavior which can seem unpredictable

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Stress - Dogs show stress in a variety of ways – in many combinations

- Stiffness
- Stretching
- Yawning
- Dilated pupils “whale eye”
- Avoidance
- Hair loss
- Pilo-erection
- Sweating from Paws

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16 **Personal Communication**

- Geared at keeping the peace in a community
 - Social group is structured from the bottom up – the leader doesn’t impose, he or she is acknowledged
- Signals from the subordinate
 - Appeasement signals
 - »Licking, groveling, flipping over, squinting, folding ears, play

bows

- Signals from the leader
 - Staring, stand overs, mouth holds, taking space
- All signals have to be very clear or be subject to misinterpretation
 - The more confident a dog is the less he or she needs to use body language
 - Play helps dogs practice appropriate communication

17 **Signaling to keep peace**

- Canine Corrections
 - Many people want adult dogs to correct obnoxious youngsters
 - Take care – many dogs don't know how to correct, and many others don't know how to take corrections

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20 **Space**

- One of the most important aspects of dog language is the use of space
 - Flight distance – the essence of safety
 - Threat will cause animals to increase space
 - Lack of threat will cause animals to decrease space
 - Offensive body language decreases the space between two dogs
 - Taking space increases control
 - Defensive body language increases the space
 - Giving space decreases control

21 **Tajik confrontation video**

22 **Space Control - Passive**

- Cat/Dog Standoff
- Sibs

23 **Space Control – Active**

24 **Anxiety – Increasing space**

25 **Avoidance**

- Golden Retriever

26 **Stress**

- Sometimes we think dogs are having a great time, when really they are under stress – occasionally it only takes one event to tip them into action

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28 **Reactivity/Aggression**

- A dog that is truly agonistic - intending harm - will be very clear about it
 - Comishures pulled forward, showing canine teeth
 - Direct eye contact
 - Ears pricked and forward
 - Low, low growl (little dogs try)
 - Stiff body language
 - Tail high

29 **Leash Reactivity**

- Most leash reactive dogs are friendly but frustrated (at least at first)
 - Behavior is frantic, tail out of control
 - Barking, lunging, standing on back two feet

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32 **Handling**

- It's *ALWAYS* safest to allow the dog to approach you, whether the dog is suspicious, cautious, fearful or friendly.
 - (If there was only one thing I could change about human/dog interactions, it would be that!)

33 **Meet and Greet**

- Most – but not all – adult dog go through a protracted greeting process
 - Perimeter check – sniffing and sometimes marking
 - Glances and look-aways
 - Often appear to ignore the other dog
 - Finally introduce themselves, briefly at first, then more comfortably
- Puppies have to learn this – it doesn't come naturally

- And many dogs never do learn it

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36 **Greetings**

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–More tentative or fearful dogs will not allow their butts to be investigated – instead they want to do all the investigation themselves – often from behind

- Many dogs do *not* like all dogs!

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37 **Play**

- A way for dogs to learn appropriate manners
- Learn to recognize good play
 - Energy level is fairly consistent
 - Both dogs keep coming back for more
 - Neither dog hides consistently
 - One dog is not always on top
 - Most dogs “freeze” during play, signaling the game is still on
 - This depends on breed type and individual dogs
 - Consistent play partners will adjust play styles
 - Very tense play
 - »boo and luke
 - Same dog (Luke) and small dog
 - »Luke and Flaca

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40 **Awkward....**

41 **Bully**

42 **Adult to youngster**

43 **Unwelcome attention**

44 **More unwelcome attention**

45 **How to take a toy**

46 **How not to take a ball**

47 **Bully with No Escape**

48 **Young Dog Learning to Bully**

49 **Helping Dogs Learn**

50 **Balance the Basics**

- Sleep
- Stimulation
- Exercise
- Food
- Social interaction
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52 **Dogs do not need**

- Vast amounts of exercise
- Eight hours of sleep a night (more like 16)
- Ability to connect and socialize with any dog or person they want to
- A human being watching their every move
- No alone time
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- When owners allow uninhibited greetings, you are not helping the dog
 - Assuming an adolescent dog can learn appropriate greeting through one or two corrections is wrong – and unfair
 - (expecting older unknown dogs to chastise an unruly dog is unfair on the older dog, and possibly dangerous to both dogs)

54 **Preparatory Work!**

- Dogs should learn first how to ignore other dogs
 - This is done through training and inhibition work

- Playgroups, daycare and dog parks all work against appropriate greeting behavior with *some* dogs
 - Without appropriate oversight, some dogs learn to be bullies, some to be victims, some to withdraw

55 **Preparatory work**

- ❖ Important obedience exercises for appropriate greetings
 - ❖ Polite Walking
 - ❖ Prevents or minimizes opposition reflex/leash aggression)
 - ❖ Sits and down stays (impulse control)
 - ❖ Look away/touch/watch

56 **Training**

- Training is relatively easy – making sure the dog remembers what you teach is much more difficult
 - When a behavior is learned under optimum conditions
 - Controlled environment
 - Dog is ready to learn – calm, focused
 - Brains are not computers – emotions color learning
 - How a session ends will determine how well it is remembered
 - If you throw a party at the end of a training session, you may well be tossing the learning away

57 **Teaching**

- Potential issues with techniques
 - Luring and modeling
 - Beware of the GPS effect – excessive luring will impede rather than encourage learning
 - Shaping
 - Beware of the frustration factor
 - There are times when dogs get so wound up they cannot retain any behaviors (see previous slide)
- Make sure you know what you are teaching...and what they are learning – they may not be the same

58 **Important considerations!!!**

- Balance
 - When you hold a leash, it should feel like a part of you.
 - Relaxed

- Not too long or short - both impede communication
- Pressure
 - The dog should feel you near him and respond to your presence
- Speed and Destination
 - Walking should have a goal
- Habit is memory
 - For a habit to be formed, there must be enough repetitions in a variety of locations to form a connection between the cue and the performance, regardless of the environment