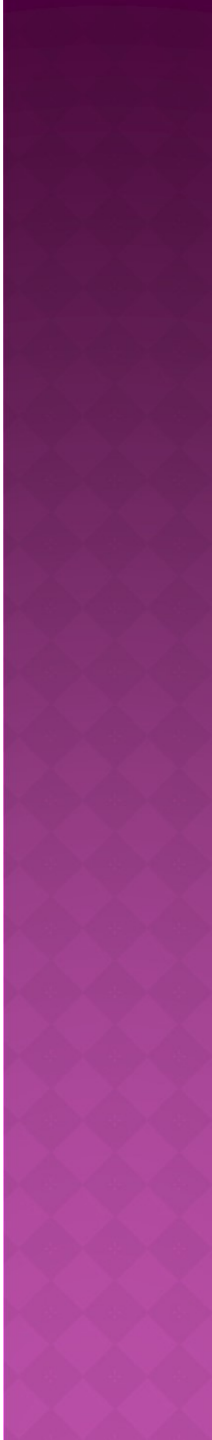
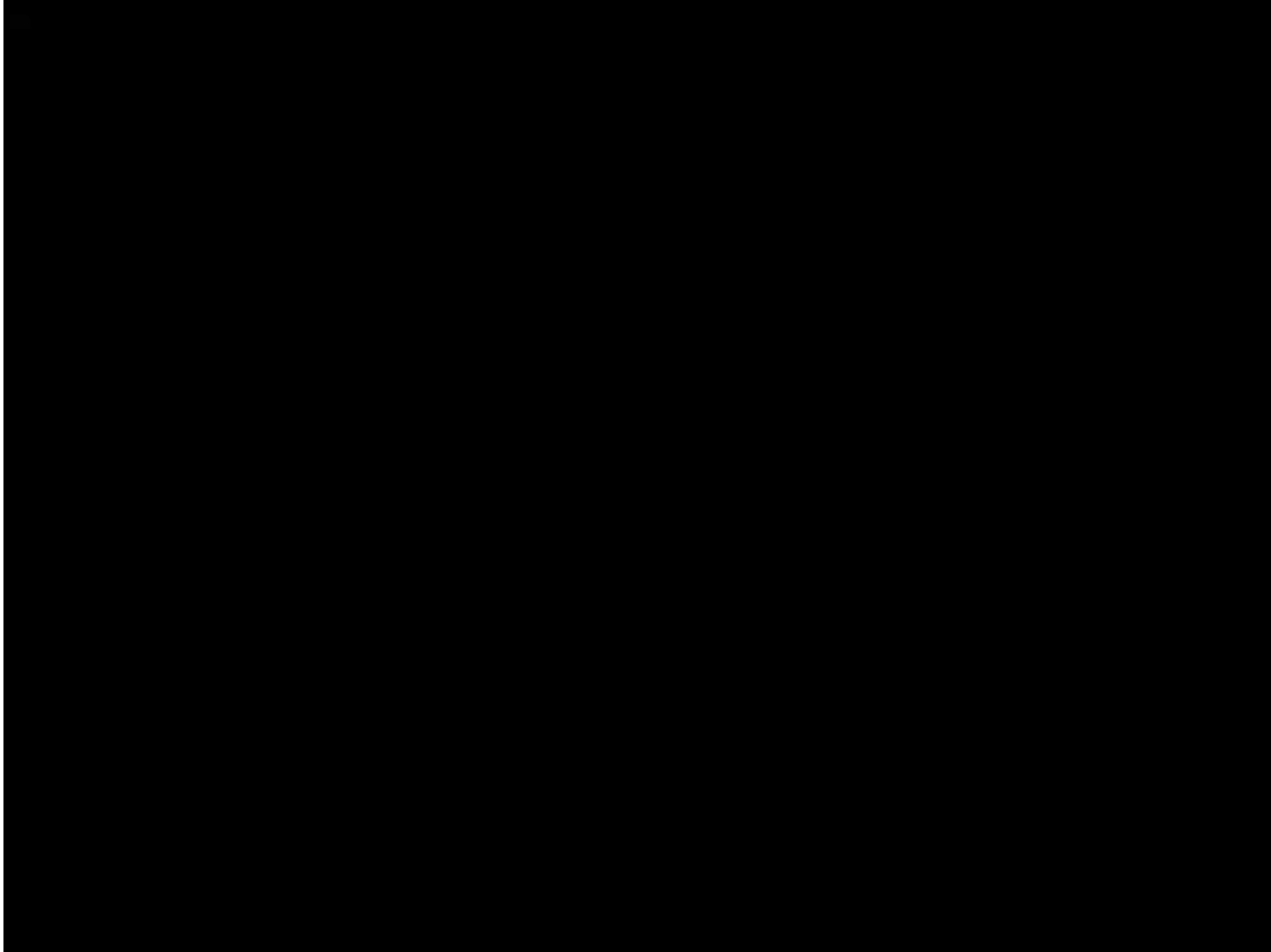


A large, bold, red letter 'A' is positioned on the left side of the slide, set against a light gray background.

**THE BIG “A” WORD:
CLASSIFICATION &
IDENTIFICATION
OF DIFFERENT
TYPES OF
AGGRESSIVE
BEHAVIOR IN DOGS**

Michele Godlevski, ACDBC, CBCC, CPDT-KA

WOULD YOU ADOPT THIS DOG OUT?





**IT IS VERY
IMPORTANT
NOT TO
SIMPLY
LABEL A DOG
“AGGRESSIVE”**

“Aggressive” in dogs = “Angry” in humans

**HOW ANGRY ARE YOU?
WHAT MAKES YOU ANGRY?
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU ARE ANGRY?**



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WHAT MAKES THE DOG ANGRY?

Triggers

- Fear
- Social Issues - Dogs
- Social Issues - People
- Territory
- Possessions
- Prey
- Subconscious or Biological Issues

WHAT DOES THE DOG DO WHEN HE IS ANGRY?

Bite Inhibition Level

- Level 1: Air snap
- Level 2: Touch & Go
- Level 3: Shallow puncture
- Level 4: Deep puncture with bruising
- Level 5: Multiple bites requiring medical attention
- Level 6: Lethal result

CALMING SIGNALS



Growl, Snap, Bite;
Hard stare; Stiff
posture

Lip licking; Sniffing;
Shaking off; Whale
eye; Head turn

Circular wag; Soft
expression; Relaxed
posture



RE-DIRECTED AGGRESSION

- Human breaking up a dog fight - bite was intended for the other dog
- Two dogs barking at someone from behind a fence are very frustrated and turn on each other



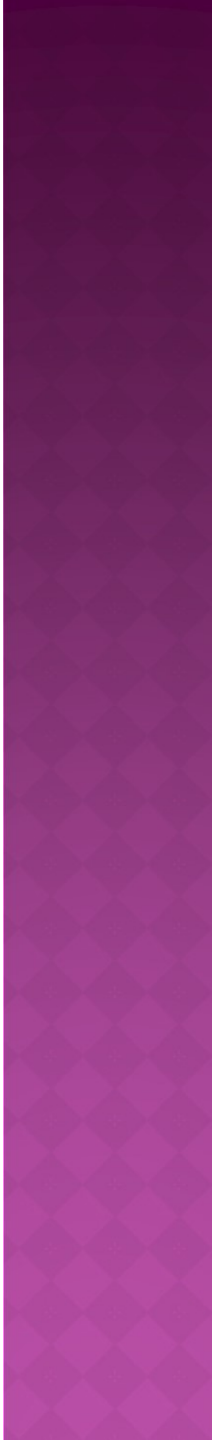
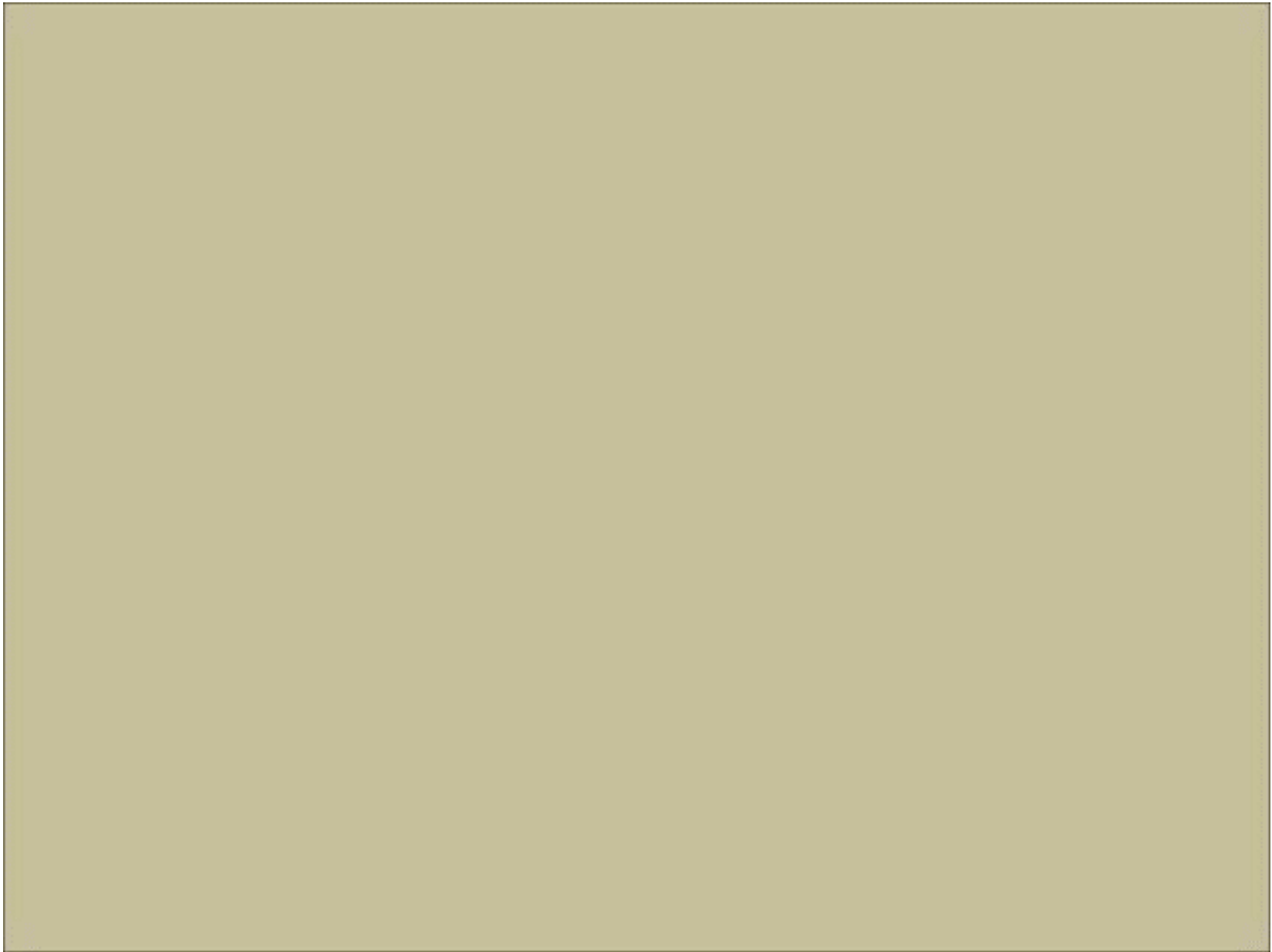
PAIN-INDUCED AGGRESSION

- Dog is in pain, person manipulates the dog, causing more pain
- Dog is NOT cognitively making a choice - very much a fight/flight response

FEAR AGGRESSION



1. Ears pinned back
2. Tail tucked
3. Frozen posture
4. Darting back and forth
5. Dilated pupils



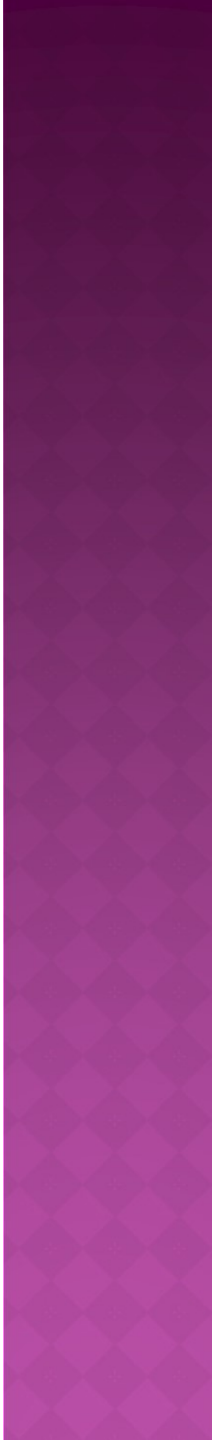
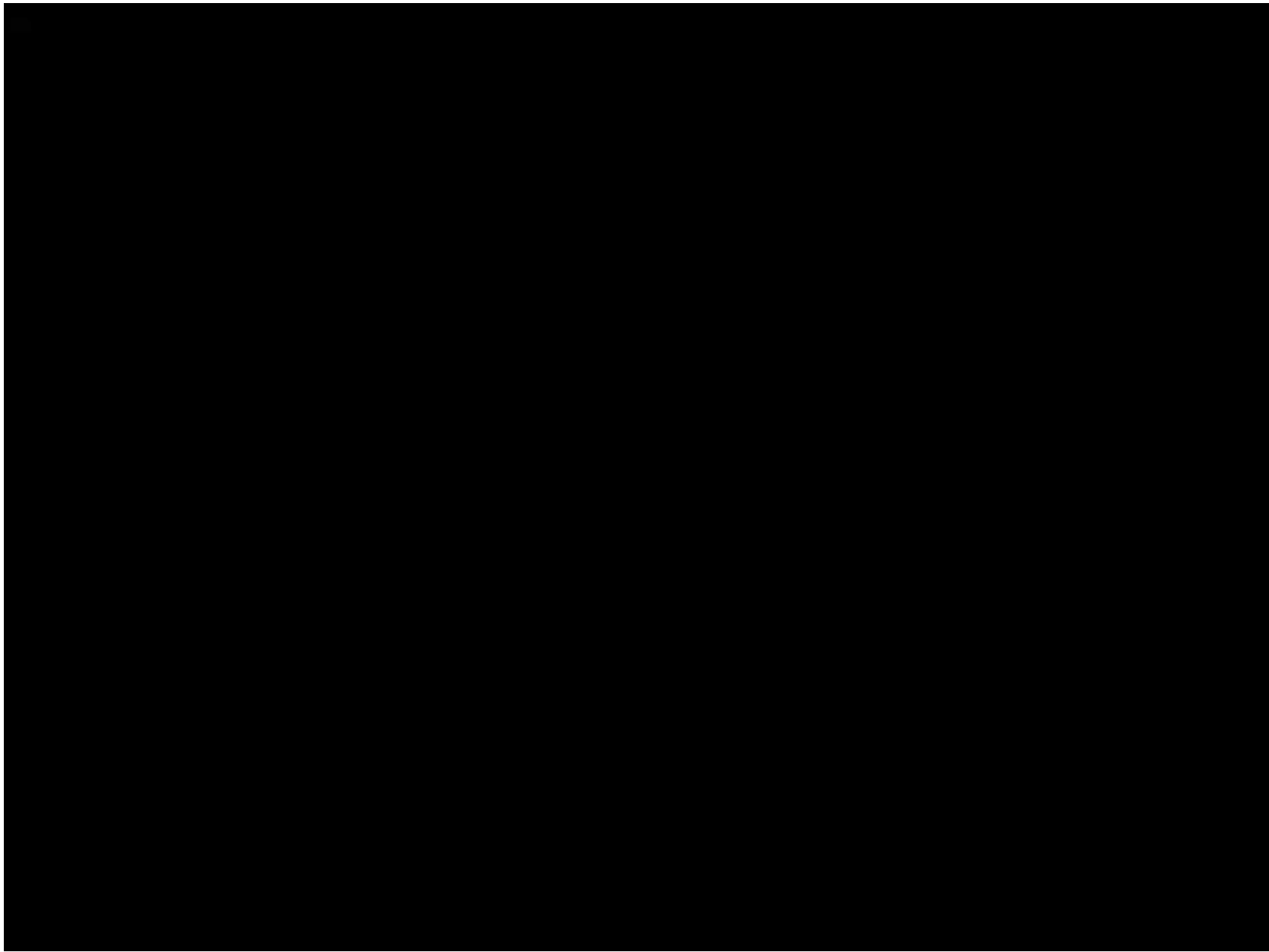
SOCIAL (DOG-DOG) AGGRESSION

- 1. Body posture forward**
- 2. Hard stare (“stink eye”)**
- 3. Stiff, puffed up stance**
- 4. Hackles up**
- 5. Front & square or sideways presentation**
- 6. Barking, lunging, growling**
- 7. Directed at unfamiliar dogs or people**



SOCIAL (DOG-PEOPLE) AGGRESSION

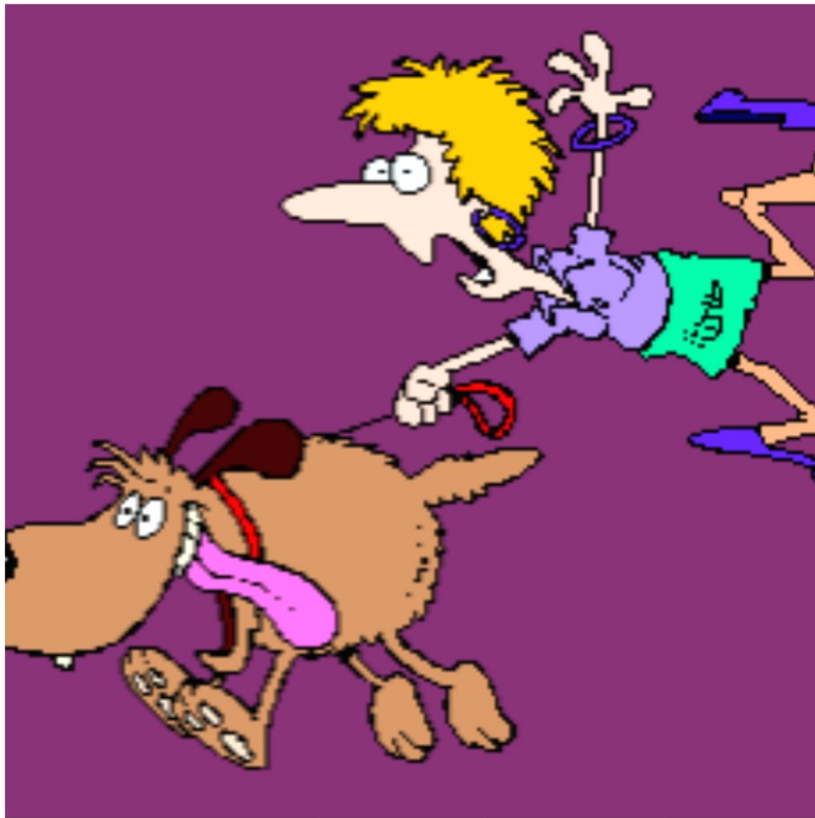
- Don't touch my feet
- Don't restrain me
- Don't clip my nails
- Don't stare at me



LEASH- REACTIVITY

(The “Frustrated Greeter”)

- Owner usually gives in to impulsive behavior
- Bark is excited and uncertain
- Barks no matter what the other dog does (doesn't read other dog very well)

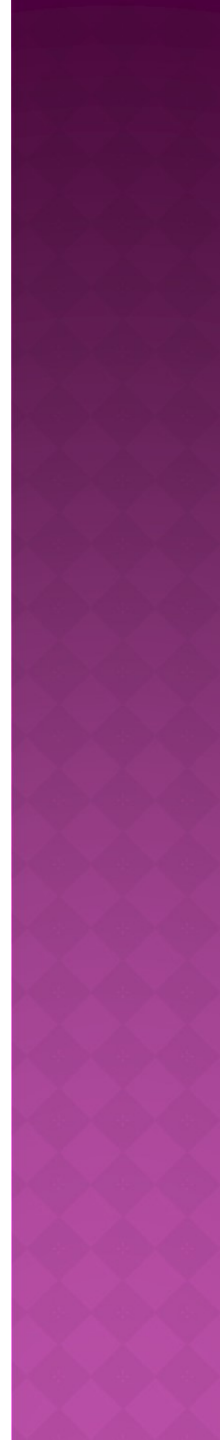
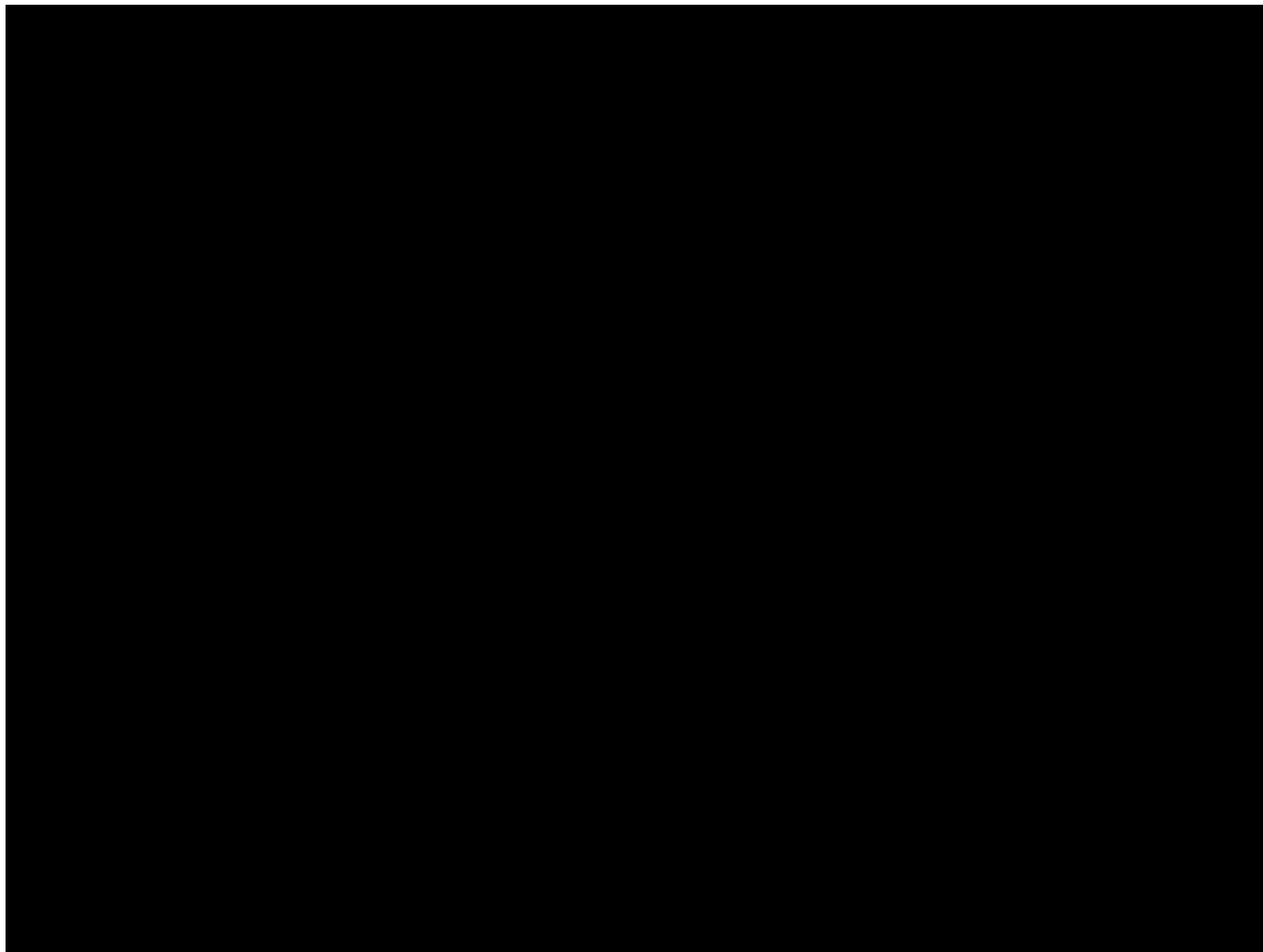




Two dogs walk into a room...

TERRITORIAL AGGRESSION (SENTRY BEHAVIOR)

- 1. Body posture forward**
- 2. Hard stare (“stink eye”)**
- 3. Stiff, puffed up stance**
- 4. Hackles up**
- 5. Front & square or sideways presentation**
- 6. Barking, lunging, growling**
- 7. Often only displayed on what the *dog* considers “home turf”**



RESOURCE GUARDING

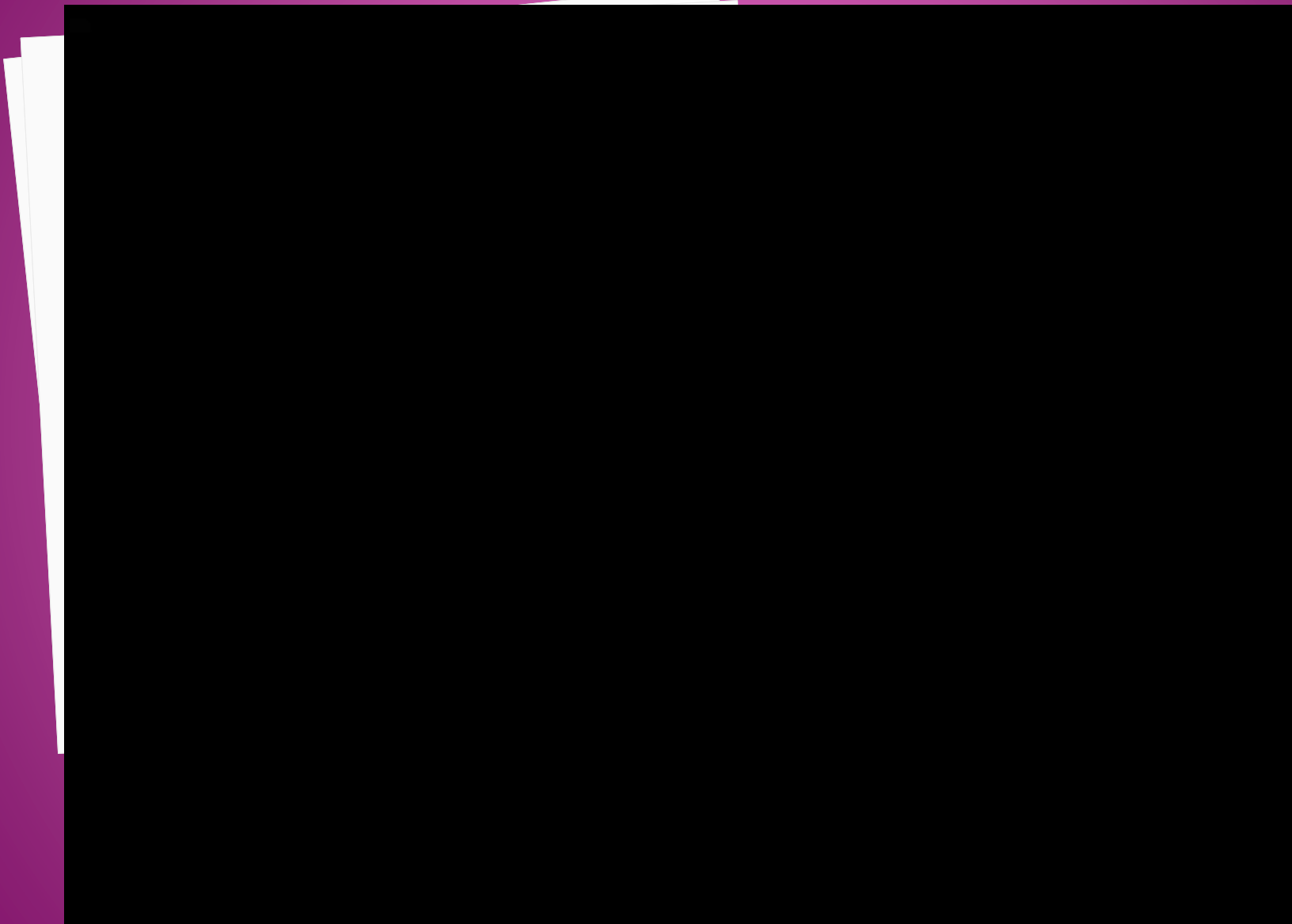
(POSSESSION
AGGRESSION)



RESOURCE GUARDING (POSSESSION AGGRESSION)

- 1. Very item-specific**
- 2. Very context-specific**
- 3. Can be directed at humans, dogs or other pets but unique to each case**
- 4. Starts off with ritualistic behavior routines**
- 5. Warnings given - low growls, whale eye**
- 6. Ritualistic long before there is growling or biting but pressure builds up over time**

RESOURCE GUARDING

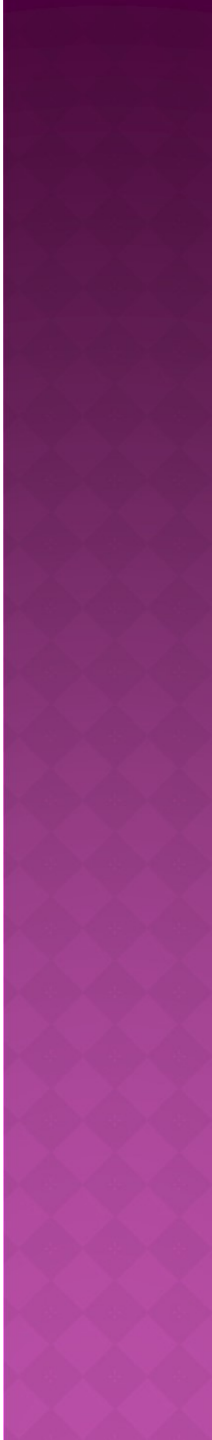
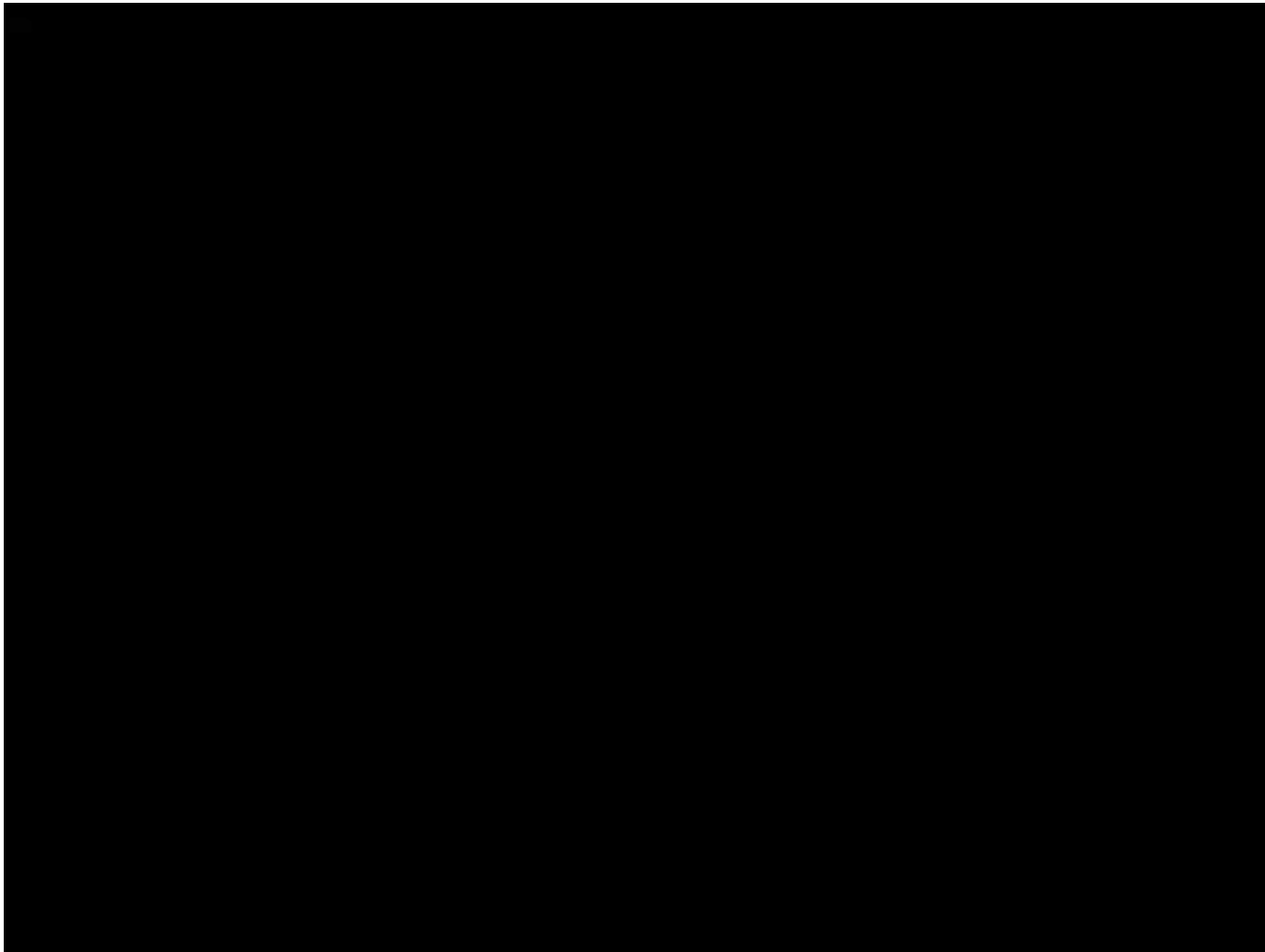




PREDATORY AGGRESSION

1. Scan / Hunt
2. Stalk
3. Chase
4. Grab
5. Bite / Hold
6. Shake
7. Bite / Kill
8. Dissect
9. Consume

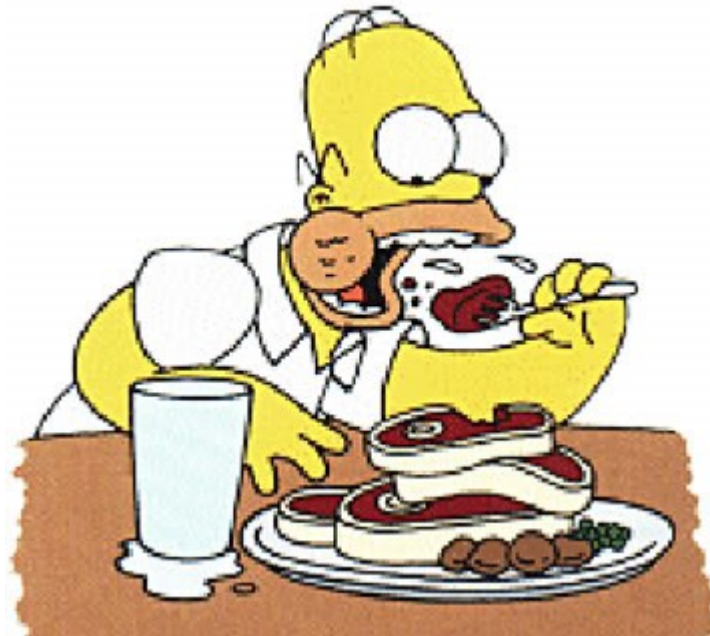
THE PREDATORY SEQUENCE



CARNIVORES!

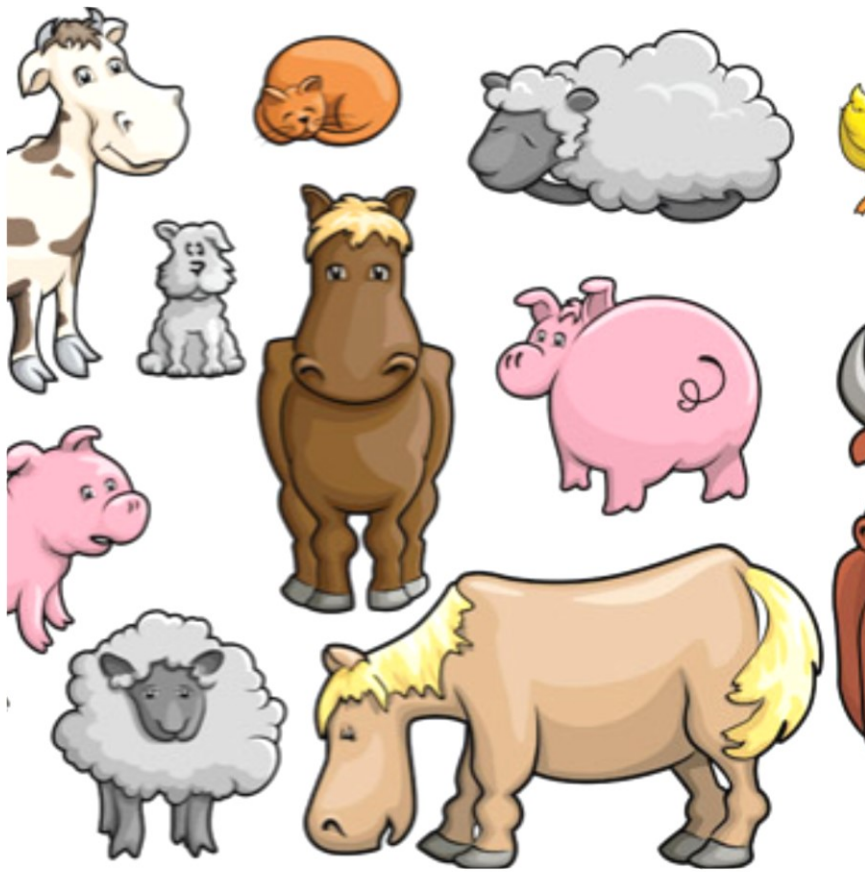


Dogs love meat



Most humans love meat

WHO IS PREY? WHERE IS THE STOPPING POINT?



1. Scan / Hunt
2. Stalk
3. Chase
4. Grab
5. Bite / Hold
6. Shake
7. Bite / Kill
8. Dissect
9. Consume



IDIOPATHIC AGGRESSION

- = No known cause
- “Bipolar” type response
- Very rapid change in behavior
- From “tame” to “wild”
- Often disoriented afterwards
- Most likely genetic or biological in nature
- Truly “unpredictable”

BEHAVIORALLY HEALTHY DOG

1. **Comfortable being petted by all people**
2. **Has not bitten a person; no punctures to dogs**
3. **Does not bark, growl, lunge at strangers**
4. **Does not guard food, toys, space from humans**
5. **Can walk past other dogs without barking, lunging, growling**

WHEN THERE ARE BEHAVIORAL ISSUES, DESCRIBE THEM BY NAME!

- LEASH-REACTIVITY
- TERRITORIAL AGGRESSION
- RESOURCE GUARDING
- FEAR AGGRESSION
- DOG-DOG SOCIAL AGGRESSION
- DOG-HUMAN SOCIAL AGGRESSION
- PREDATORY AGGRESSION
- IDIOPATHIC AGGRESSION