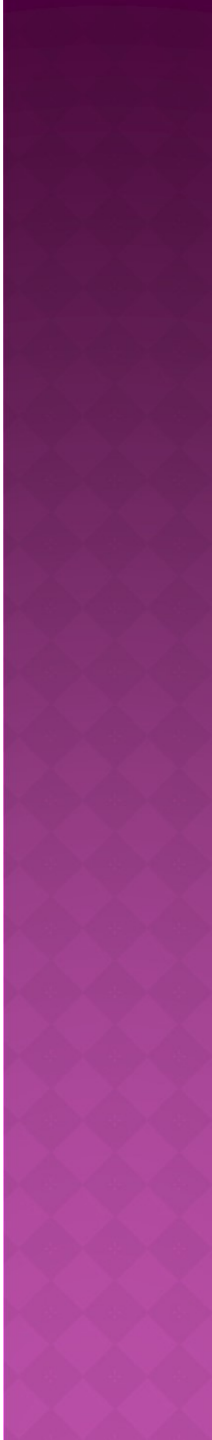
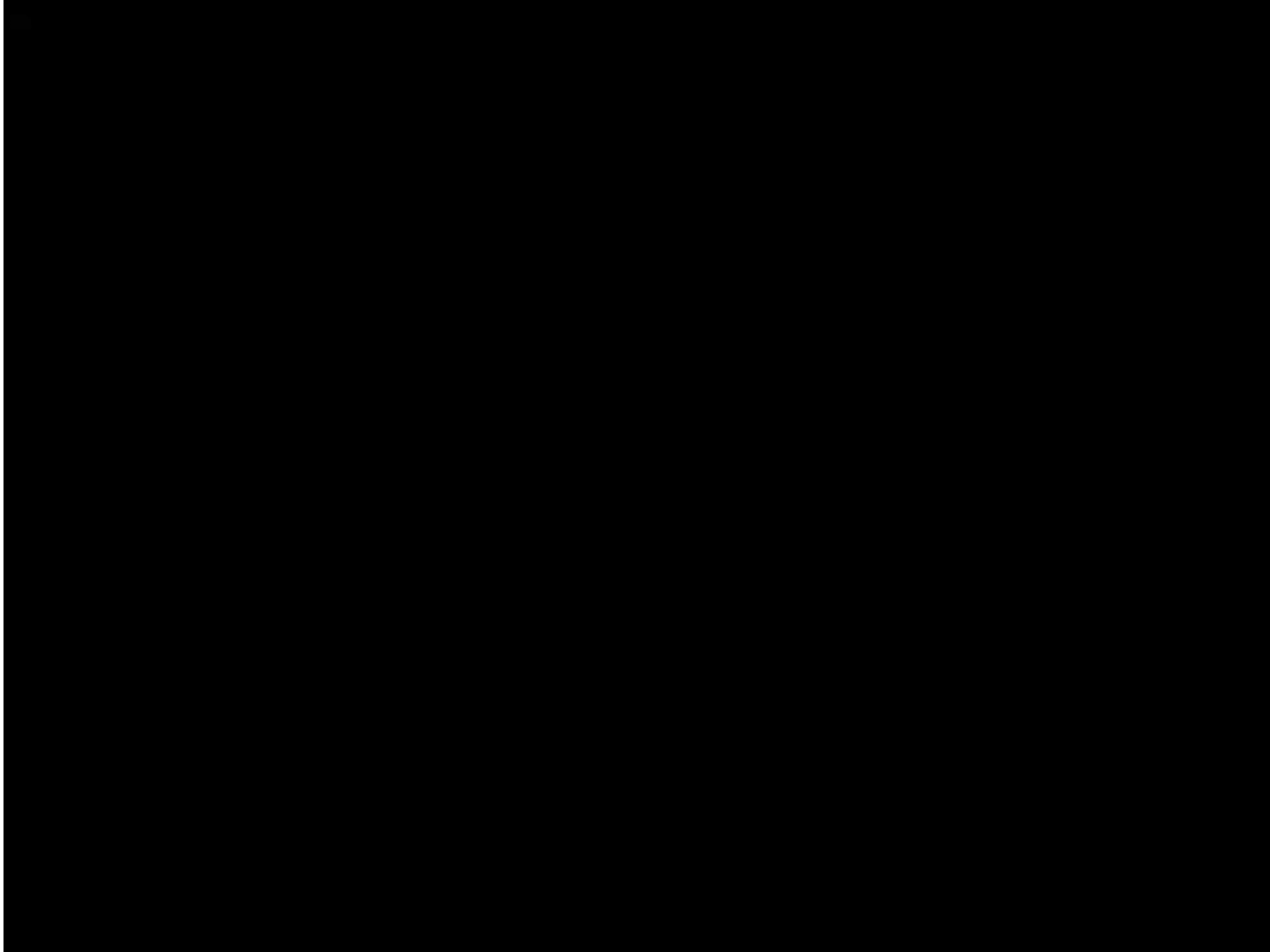


A large, bold, red letter 'A' is positioned on the left side of the slide, set against a light gray background.

**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?



shutterstock · 211330039

# HOW ANGRY IS THE DOG?

## WHAT MAKES THE DOG ANGRY?

### 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

#### ○ Triggers

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

# FEAR AGGRESSION



1. Ears pinned back
2. Tail tucked
3. Frozen posture or
4. Darting back and forth



# FEAR

- Frozen posture
- Dilated pupils
- Ears pulled back
- Darting movements



# **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**

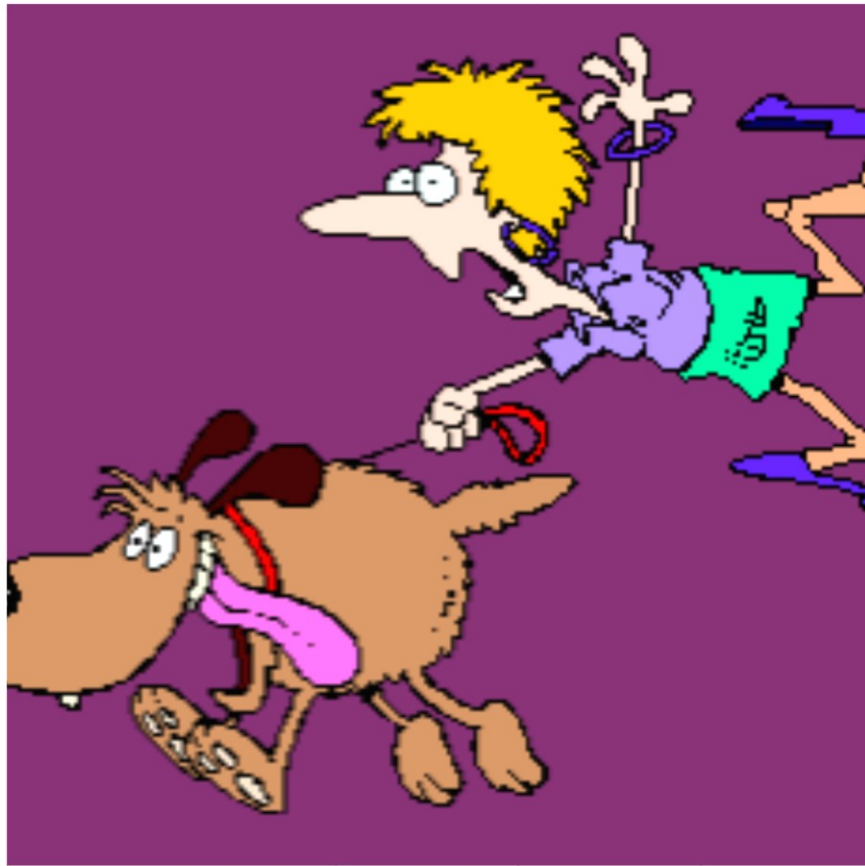




# SOCIAL (DOG-PEOPLE) AGGRESSION

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

# LEASH- REACTIVITY



## The “Frustrated Greeter”

- Has some doggie friends
- Often loves dog park and daycare
- Wants to meet every dog it sees
- Owner usually gives in to this impulsive behavior
- Maybe had a bad experience once rushing up to a dog
- Now barks with uncertainty
- Barks no matter what the other dog does (doesn't read other dog very well)



# TERRITORIAL AGGRESSION (SENTRY BEHAVIOR)

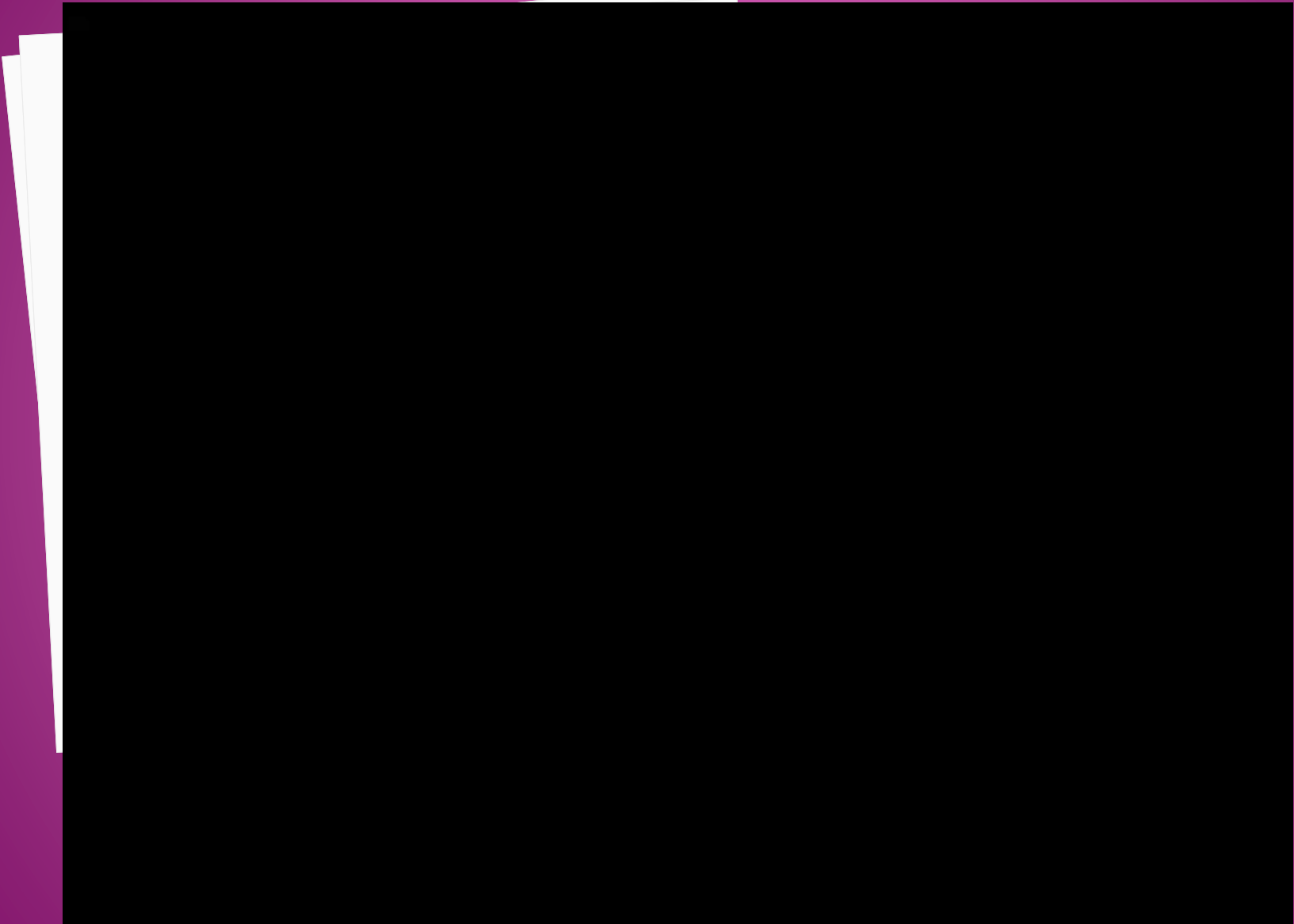
1. Body posture forward
2. Hard stare (“stink eye”)
3. Stiff, puffed up stance
4. Hackles up
5. Front & square or sideways presentation
6. Barking, lunging, growling
7. Often only displayed on what the \*dog\* considers “home turf”

# RESOURCE GUARDING (POSSESSION AGGRESSION)



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

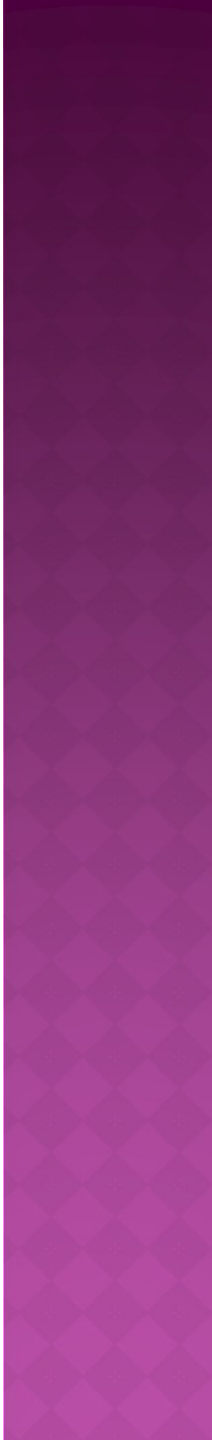
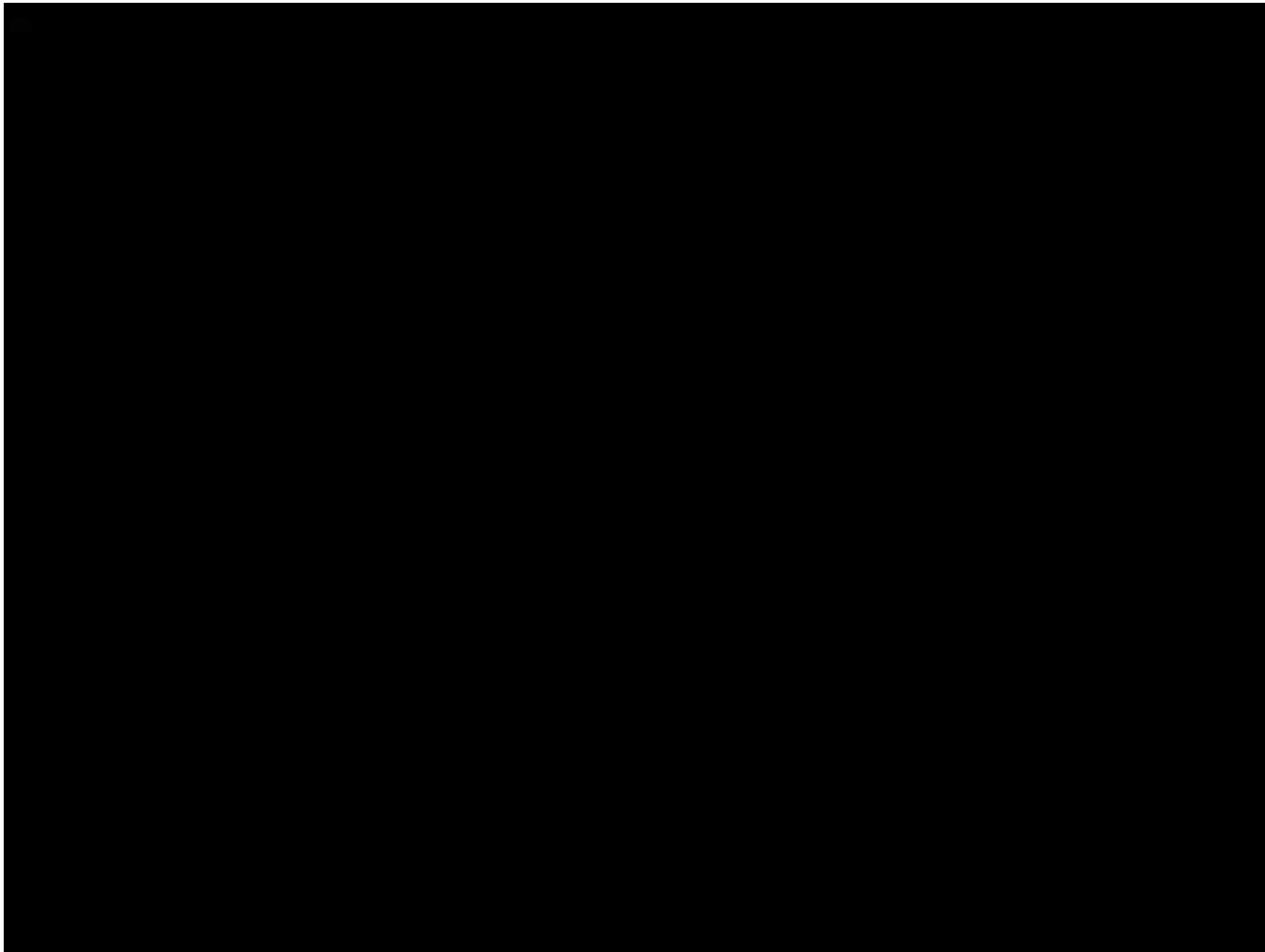




# PREDATORY AGGRESSION

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

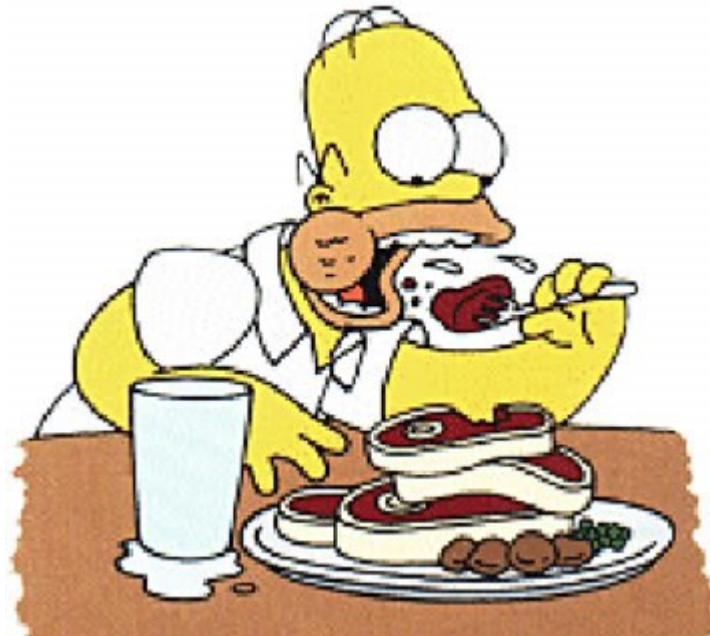
# THE PREDATORY SEQUENCE



# CARNIVORES!



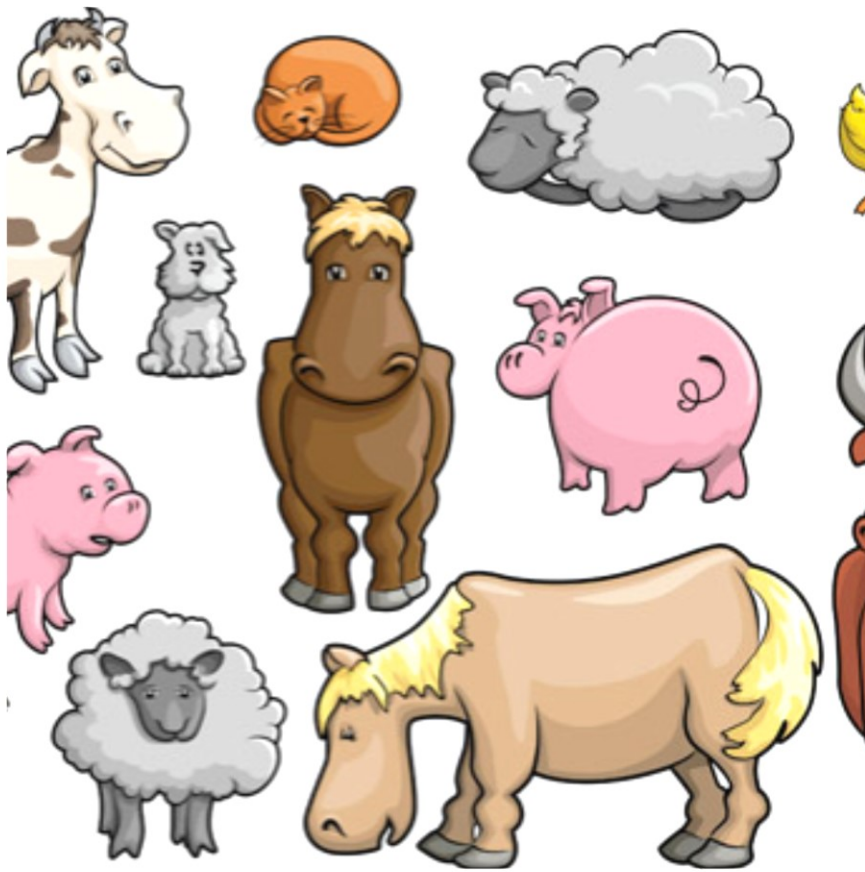
Dogs love meat



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!

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