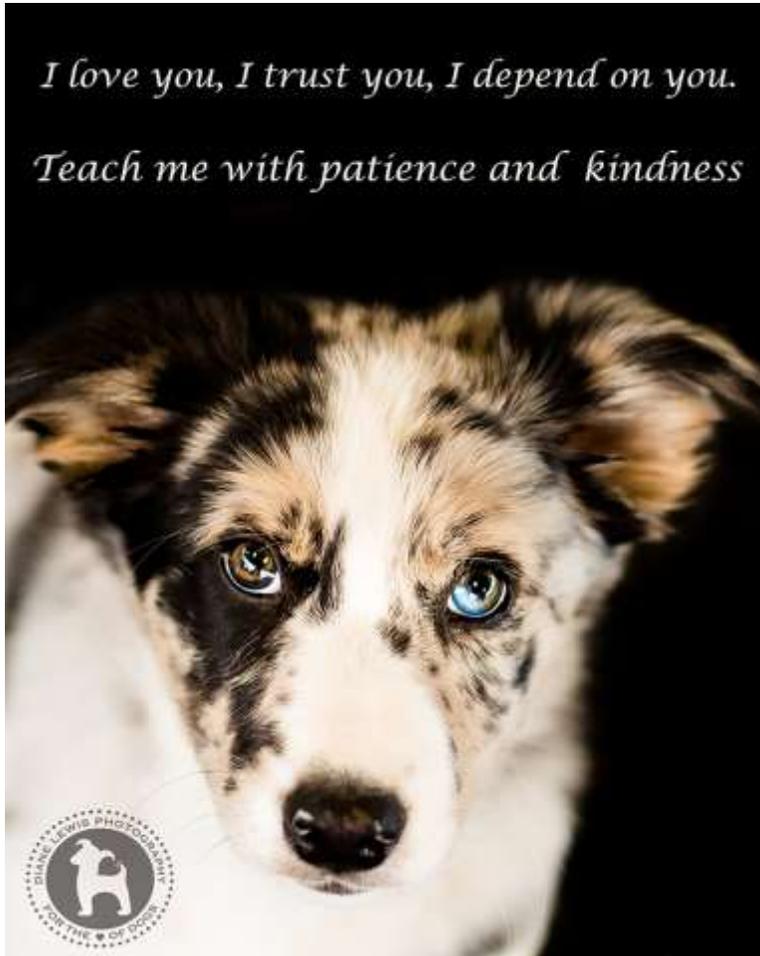


Dog Behavior Handout

TEAMWORKS DOG TRAINING

I love you, I trust you, I depend on you.

Teach me with patience and kindness



MICHELE GODLEVSKI, 2018

What Does it Mean to Be a Leader?

Believe it or not, in the dog world, the most important trait a leader has is NOT that the leader is the biggest or strongest...but that a leader controls all the resources. This means a leader is in charge of food, water, attention, resting spaces, and the general agenda for the pack. Of course, the best human leaders are the ones we respect and trust...not the ones we fear. So, when you set out to be your dog's leader, remember that it doesn't mean you need to "dominate" your dog. You simply have to prove that your dog needs to work for its share of resources, and that you are fair and trustworthy.

- You can start by making your dog work for its food, instead of just putting it in a bowl each day. Dolphin trainers do this too. They measure out each dolphin's ration of fish for the day and use that bucket of fish for training sessions. Whatever is left at the end of the day is fed to the dolphin for its dinner. Of course, in order to do this with your dog, you need to be sure food is not left out in a bowl for the dog to free-feed all day. Instead, put a day's worth of food in a zip-lock baggie, and use it for training sessions throughout the day. Whatever is left at the end of the day can be fed to your dog as dinner. This practice will also help your dog maintain an ideal weight, and not have any gastrointestinal issues from varying the diet too much.
- Dog leaders also choose the space they rest in. This means you should be able to specify where your dog sleeps or rests (a crate, an exercise pen, or a dog bed), and be able to have your own resting space to yourself if you desire. In order to help your puppy with this concept, be sure to feed your dog his remaining dinner in his crate or exercise pen or dog bed. You can also give him any bones in this space.
- Dog leaders choose the agenda and provide rules and boundaries. Your dog will feel a lot more secure if he knows that there is a routine for the day and a general schedule to follow. Dogs like to know what to expect, and prefer consistency. In general, when you are training a puppy or a new dog, less space means more control over behavior. Don't give your puppy or new dog free reign of the entire house. Just like a child in school has his desk or his locker, or his room at home your dog needs some boundaries so he learns to earn more freedom gradually.
- Play with your dog needs to have structure too. Leaders don't chase their dog around. Leaders start games and end games. For more information about this, see our handout called **Good Games to Play with Your Dog**.
- Meet demands with demands If your teenager demands spending money, do you at least demand they clean their room first? The same should be true for your dog. If your dog demands to be petted or played with, ask for a sit first.

RECOMMENDED READING: [Learn To Earn by Dr. Sophia Yin & Leader of the Pack by Dr. Patricia McConnell](#)

JUMPING UP ON PEOPLE



WHY DO DOGS JUMP UP?

- ❖ Dogs jump up to get close to your face to smell you breath.
- ❖ Your breath gives your dog information on where you have been and how you are feeling.
- ❖ The urge to jump is worse when the dog feels separation anxiety.

COMMON OWNER MISTAKES:

- ❖ Petting the dog or holding the dog when she jumps up.
- ❖ Allowing the dog to jump up on you but scolding her for jumping on others.
- ❖ Allowing dog to jump up on bed or on couch whenever she pleases without invitation .
- ❖ Using the word "down" for two different things -- when you mean "don't jump up" and when you actually want the dog to lie down.
- ❖ Making a really big fuss over the dog during greetings.

START BY:

- ❖ Stop petting the dog for jumping up. Make sure your family members and guests do the same.
- ❖ When your dog jumps up she should get no eye contact at all and no petting or hands on the dog.
- ❖ If the dog jumps up, say "off" and turn completely around and deny your dog face and hand contact. Say "sit", and when the dog does, reward her by crouching down to put your face at her level. Pet the dog calmly only if she remains in a sitting position.
- ❖ Begin a routine of always asking the dog to sit or lie down *before* petting her.
- ❖ Don't make a big deal over leaving the house or returning. Although you may have missed your dog, keep your greeting calm.
- ❖ Crate dog when you are not home. Make her sit before letting her out of the crate. Follow same rules if she jumps up after letting her out. If the dog is kept outdoors, make her sit before you enter the pen. If she continues to bark and jump in her pen quietly turn around and disappear out of sight. Come back when she stops barking. Practice this routine often.
- ❖ Please note, however, if your dog feels isolated and ignored, she will not only want to jump up, but she will exhibit other signs of separation anxiety like destructive chewing, howling or excessive barking. Remember that dogs are pack animals and crave companionship. If the dog is truly jumping out of lack of attention, you will need to also spend quality time with your dog every day, enroll your dog in Doggie Dasychool, and/or to get her aplaymate.
- ❖ If the dog is allowed up on furniture and beds (i.e. near people's faces) without invitation, she will be much more likely to jump up to obtain this familiar vantage point. If you are having jumping up problems on furniture, stop allowing the dog free reign of the house and use a crate, exercise pen, or baby gates. Teach the dog only to come up when you ask her to do so.
- ❖ Teach your dog to go to a dog bed or "station" when the doorbell rings. You can then throw a bunch of dog food or treats onto that dog bed. Practice this at home repeatedly, until your dog runs to her dog bed when she hears the doorbell ring.

RECOMMENED READING: [The Toolbox for Building a Great Family Dog by Terry Ryan.](#)

MOUTHING PEOPLE



WHY DO PUPPIES AND YOUNG DOGS MOUTH PEOPLE?

- ❖ Puppies are supposed to play with other puppies and dogs – in a mouth-on wrestling style – until they are about a year to 18 months of age. This is normal behavior for them. When we take puppies away from their littermates, they are usually very deprived of canine interactions, unless you have another youthful dog in the household. For this reason, doggie daycares have become very popular.
- ❖ Puppies are not just “playing” when they mouth each other. They are learning something called “bite inhibition”. In other words, they are learning muscle-control for their jaws. If they bite another puppy or dog too hard, the other puppy or dog will give them feedback and will stop playing with them. This lesson is best taught by another dog, not by a human.

COMMON OWNER MISTAKES:

- ❖ Allowing the dog gnaw on humans when he is a puppy.
- ❖ Some people in the house allow the dog to gnaw, others don't.
- ❖ Rough-housing with the dog, using your hands as a toy.

START BY:

- ❖ No more rough-housing or wrestling games. Use a toy in the dog's mouth at all times during play. Teeth on skin = GAME OVER.
- ❖ Follow all rules of leadership (see Leadership handout). Make dog sit or lay down to earn all treats, meals, or toys.
- ❖ Enroll your dog in our Doggie Dayschool or a quality (versus quantity) small-play-group doggie daycare. Dog Parks are not recommended because of the large numbers and inconsistency of the play groups.
- ❖ Set up play dates with well-matched dogs belonging to neighbors, family, and friends.
- ❖ Find (and keep handy) an acceptable chew toy and give it to the dog. Make sure you have several different types of toys placed all around the house. Hand it to the dog and praise if he starts to chew on the toy. Repeat above if he chooses to chew on you again. Be very stubborn about doing this routine over and over again.
- ❖ Do not allow your dog to gnaw on you or others "sometimes".
- ❖ When he persists in gnawing on you rather than the toy, call a time out. Get up off the floor. Take the toy and walk away from the dog. Removing your presence will give him the message that teeth on skin is game over. Let him know exactly where the fun stops.

RECOMMENDED READING: [After You Get Your Puppy by Dr. Ian Dunbar](#)

GROWLING



WHY DO DOGS GROWL?

- ❖ Growling is used by dogs as a warning. A growl means “stop what you are doing or I might have to bite you”. NEVER punish a dog for growling, especially if you have children. That growl lets you know you need to stop what you are doing and go see what is going on!
- ❖ Dogs sometimes growl over territory – you, their house, their yard, their food, their toys.
- ❖ Puppies and young dogs often growl at something they find to be different or scary.
- ❖ If your dog growls at strangers, you may think that is a good thing for protection, but what if he growls at your neighbor’s child? Chances are, if your dog growls at just any stranger, your dog may pick the wrong person to growl at. You do not want a dog that cannot tell the difference between a real threat (someone breaking into your house) and the mailman. Do NOT encourage your dog to growl at any person. Puppies and young dogs need to know that the world of people is a safe place. All dogs will **bark** when they hear a noise...that is all you need to let you know someone is outside your door.
- ❖ If your dog growls at other dogs, his intent is probably to tell them to stay away from his territory or his things. Be sure you are feeding dogs from the same household in separate spaces, out of sight from each other. Dogs do NOT like to share their food or bones with other dogs, in the same way that kids really prefer their own rooms.

COMMON OWNER MISTAKES:

- ❖ Petting the dog as it growls, saying “its alright”. (This reinforces the behavior and tells the dog to keep doing it!)
- ❖ Encouraging the dog to growl at strangers. This is NOT a safe practice. Just because a person is new to your door doesn’t mean they aren’t welcome, unless you never plan to make any new friends.

START BY:

- ❖ If your dog is growling at another dog, he is getting reinforced by WATCHING THE OTHER
- ❖ DOG’S REACTION (the other dog squirms or runs away). The way to stop his reinforcement is to break his eye contact with that dog and give the dogs separate spaces to eat or chew bones in.
- ❖ To prevent growling at the wrong person, teach your dog the word “friend” by saying the word everytime someone he likes comes to visit. Praise him while you say “friend” and make sure that person pets the dog and gives him treats. Then, when your neighbor’s child wants to pet your dog, say “friend” and have that child give the dog treats and pet him. He will then understand that the word “friend” means that person is o.k. with you. If you don’t make this clear for him, he may make his own conclusions. (Also, now when there is a knock on the door, you can open it up and tell your dog “friend” when it really is a friend.)

RECOMMENDED READING: [The Sentry Dog by Michele Godlevski](#)

CHEWING ON INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS

WHY DO PUPPIES AND YOUNG DOGS CHEW THINGS UP?

- ❖ Puppies have baby teeth until about 5 months of age. However, their adult teeth will still grow and not be fully in place for another 7 months. When dogs are “teething”, it feels good to chew on things.
- ❖ Puppies also explore the world with their mouths. They are constantly testing things to see if they meet the criteria of “yummy food”.
- ❖ Some puppies and young dogs chew on items because they get attention (even negative attention) for doing so.

COMMON OWNER MISTAKES

- ❖ Allowing a puppy to chew on an “old shoe” or “old towel”. First of all, those materials are not designed to be chewed on. Secondly, a puppy cannot tell the difference between an old shoe or towel and a new one.
- ❖ Yelling at and chasing the dog when he steals an item he is not supposed to chew. This just makes stealing fun for your dog.

START BY

- ❖ Teach your dog a “drop” or “release” . Have two identical toys for a play session. Throw one. Show the dog the other and wait until he drops the first. As he does, say “release” and throw the second toy. Practice giving him a toy, then releasing it for a treat.
- ❖ Crate your dog when you are not home or use an exercise pen or baby gate to confine him to a small area. **CRATING YOUR DOG IS NOT ANY MORE CRUEL THAN PUTTING A BABY IN A PLAYPEN...AND IT MAY SAVE YOUR DOG'S LIFE.** Let your dog earn his freedom in the house by displaying good behavior, maturity, and self control. Most puppies that learn to go into a crate not only grow out of the need to be in the crate, but also will readily go into the crate to sleep without being told.
- ❖ Get a separate “box” to store all of dog's toys in. Do NOT allow dog to chew on “old” shoes or socks. Limit his toys to exclusively “dog” toys and keep all other household items in unreachable places.
- ❖ You can coat items that you DO want the dog to chew on with beef or chicken fat. To help him make the distinction, spray the items you do NOT want the dog to chew with lemon juice, cayenne pepper, Bitter Apple (available in pet stores), or Capsaicin roll-on.
- ❖ Keep a variety of chewable dog toy items in the “dog toy box”. Good chewable toys include Kong toys, Nylabones, bully sticks, pig ears, all-cotton knotted rope toys, pressed American-made rawhide (in very limited quantities). Dangerous toys include rawhide chips, non-cotton rope toys, toys with easily removable squeakers, ham or poultry bones or splintery bones. When in doubt about a toy, always follow the advice of your veterinarian or breeder. Certain toys may not be safe for certain breeds of dogs because of their size or composition.



RECOMMENDED READING: [Take Control, But Don't Lose Control, by Michele Godlewski](#)

NOT COMING WHEN CALLED



Taking the keys away...and going back to driver's education training

Many new dog owners (and especially new puppy owners) allow their dog the freedom of being off leash before the dog is really ready. While most young puppies naturally cling to their owners out of insecurity, most adolescent dogs will choose a squirrel, cat, or other dog over returning to their owner. If you take your dog off leash before he has been taught a recall with distractions, your dog is likely to learn that it is more fun **not** come to you, and worse yet, to end up getting hit by a car. Essentially, it is like giving the car keys to a 13-year-old and saying "Go ahead! Drive as fast as you want and have fun!". Instead, your dog should be taught to come to you and then systematically introduced to distractions before you ever take the dog off leash, especially in an un-fenced area. Think of it as driver's education training.

Have you ever caught your dog misbehaving and then said "Come over here right now!!!"?

If so, your dog only remembers that you called him, and when he came to you, he got punished. Your dog probably has no recollection of what he did wrong because you re-focused his attention from what he was doing to you. You will need to choose a new recall word, because your dog probably learned very well not to come in response to the original one. The next time your dog misbehaves, go over to him and give him a verbal reprimand right at the place of wrongdoing. Focus your efforts on the actual "thing" the dog was doing (i.e. the trashcan if he was getting into the trash) so the dog associates the feedback with the item and not with you. Of course, you will also need to train an incompatible behavior to what the dog was doing or manage the situation differently to prevent the problem. But the bottom line is not to ask the dog to come to you when he is doing something wrong.

When you call your dog does he run the other way? Do you chase him? Does his tail wag?

Dogs like this think "come" means "Chase me! Let's have fun!". You will need to choose a new recall word and teach it properly. This process will be most successful if you stop the practice of letting your dog run free and always keep a lead attached to him. Chasing him only cheapens you in his eyes and undermines your authority as the "leader". Let your dog EARN the right to run free by first LEARNING the recall properly. Test him on a long loose leash before ever taking the lead off. Also, make sure there are big

rewards given for *coming back to you or coming inside* – keep a supply of treats and toys handy by the door.

Does your dog bolt out of the car? The house? To his food bowl?

Start today and make a ritual out of always requiring the dog to sit and stay and be released before he is allowed to go in or out of the car or house or get his food or a treat. It may seem regimented, but if you want results, you need to remember that you need to control the food to be a leader.

Be honest. Does your dog really get all of the exercise he needs for his breed and his age?

Do you know what it feels like to be cramped up in a small space like a car all day? Now imagine a two-year old child cramped up in that space. What happens when they finally get out into some fresh air? You may be tired when you come home from work, but your dog is has “cabin fever” and ready for action. Remember also, that your dog has been genetically selected for thousands of years to perform a task. What is that task for your breed? Herding sheep all day? Retrieving water fowl across large ponds and through lots of tall weeds? *You would be surprised how much of a difference it makes to have 15 minute, intense, running or play sessions with your dog in the morning and in the evening.* Make time for him and he will respond. Tire him out and he’ll be less likely to want to convince you to run after him.

What will happen if you just let your dog run free in the neighborhood?

Statistically, he will probably be stolen, poisoned, abused, attacked by other dogs, or hit by a car. There is a leash law in Wake County -- if you are lucky, he will get picked up by animal control before he is harmed. Remember, dogs are 14,000 years of breeding away from wolves. The reason they do not fare well "in the wild" is that dogs were selected for their puppy-like nature and trust of human beings. Wolves do not trust humans instinctively and do not follow cars or try to seek humans out. We domesticated dogs away from wolves and it is our responsibility to make sure that dogs are protected in our urban and suburban societies. Remember that a male dog can smell a female in heat up to five miles away through brick, plaster, or wood. If given the option, he will run to find her, following only his nose and leaving all common sense behind. Dogs bred to hunt will do the same after small game. When your dog roams the neighborhood, he will consider the whole thing to be his “territory”, which will lead to other problems like fighting with other dogs, chasing or killing small animals, chasing cars, and aggression.

How should you train your dog to come to you?

Don't let the "recall" just happen; anticipate the situation and set your dog up to succeed. Stuff your pockets with treats or toys. Attach a long piece of rope or Flexi lead to your dog and let him think he is running around free. Discreetly pick up the end of the rope and call your dog. Back up slightly. Reel the dog in, praising him all the while and when he reaches you, click and reward him with the treat or toy. Play this game over and over and try it in parks and around the things your dog finds most distracting. Only when your dog will come despite distractions should you try off lead recalls in an enclosed area like a tennis court or baseball field. If your dog decides not to come, go back to the long rope and the distractions. Patience and hard work will be fruitful.

RECOMMENDED VIEWING: [The Really Reliable Recall by Leslie Nelson](#)

EXCESSIVE BARKING



WHY DOES YOUR DOG BARK??

The first thing to remember about fixing excessive barking in dogs is that the problem is *not* like fixing a leaky faucet. Yes, it may be just as annoying, but it's not controlled by an on and off switch. Stopping excessive barking in dogs is a lot more like stopping a baby from crying.

Like a baby, your dog barks in order to communicate. If your dog feels that he isn't getting his point across, he will use louder and more intense versions of communication.

Some dogs focus their barking mostly at people, some bark at other dogs or animals; many dogs do a little (or a lot) of both.

Observe your dog when he is barking excessively. Is he outside, pointed toward the house? Is he inside, looking out the window? Does he bark when you leave the house? Is he barking at a cat that has wandered into your yard? Does he bark at the same things every day? Does he anticipate the things he likes to bark at (i.e. wait at one end of the yard watching for the mailman about the time he arrives each day?)

Another reason dogs bark is instinct. They were genetically selected over the years for the intensity of their bark because it served a working purpose. Terriers barked at, chased, and dug out rodents. Herding dogs barked at livestock to move them along. Guard dogs barked at intruders. What was your breed of dog originally intended to do? What situations in the dog's life are closest to that original purpose? (i.e. Are the "sheep" in your herding dog's life the neighbor children that run along the fence line?)

PUT THE BARK UNDER CONTROL

After you understand why your dog barks and what each of the barks is intended for, one of the best ways to reduce barking is to put it under the control of your command. Yes, teach your already-outspoken canine to speak. Right now your dog speaks whenever he wants to and for as long as he wants to. What you want is to control when he speaks and be able to tell him when he has had enough to say.

The first step is to teach him to speak. (Which should be a snap, right?) When he is speaking fluently on command, change the game from getting a treat when he speaks to getting a treat when you say "enough" and he stops. Ask him to use his not-so-new speaking talent on appropriate occasions and then tell him "enough!". For instance, if someone pulls up into the driveway, you can ask him "Who's there?" and let him give a few guard-dog-like barks. Then tell him "enough" and treat him for quieting down. The best way to do this is to have a friend pull up in the driveway on purpose and then back out. Repeat again and again until your friend can stop the car, then get out of the car, then approach the house, with your dog responding to "enough" on command.

Teamworks Dog Training, LLC

SET THE DOG UP

When your dog understands the difference between "speak" and "enough", you must give him step-wise quizzes to really bring the message home. For instance, if your dog barks in the car at other people walking by the car, you start by driving through a crowded parking lot. Put him in a crate within someone's arm's reach and when he barks, tell him "enough". If he refuses, take a blanket and cover the entire crate. When he is quiet, pull up one corner. As soon as he barks, its back to the "night-time canary cage". Repeat this over and over until he learns that he can earn the pleasure of looking out the window by being quiet. If your dog barks when you leave, put your dog in his crate, leave the house, wait until he stops barking (take a good book the first time) and then return with praise when he quiets down.

DON'T LET THE BARK CONTROL YOU

While it is always important to at least investigate the reason your dog is barking, do not fall into the trap of being trained by your dog. In other words, if you put your dog in his crate and he barks because he wants to come out, and you give in and open the crate, who do you think is wearing the collar in this relationship? In this case, your dog is like the baby fussing in a crib who is really just tired. Let your dog bark himself to boredom. Make the point that you are NOT going to let him out simply because he is complaining. Wait until he tuckers out and is silent for five minutes and then go praise him and let him out. A few times through this routine and he will start to notice that the barking isn't getting him anywhere. (Incidentally, this technique of ignoring the dog is not going to work if your dog is outside rather than inside in a crate. In a crate in a quiet room, there should only be one reason to bark and no rewards for barking. Outside, there are thousands of reasons to bark and lots of reinforcement for doing so...like people running away. If your dog is barking outside, you may want to use creative avoidance.)

USE CREATIVE AVOIDANCE

Another very effective tool in dealing with dog behavior problems is to do whatever you can to change the dog's environment. For instance, if your dog barks at neighborhood children running home from school past your fence, put up some large bushes with briars along the fence. Move his dog house so that he cannot stand on top of it and use it as a look-out post. Use a baby gate in the house to deny him privilege into rooms with windows that overlook "barkable" things. Figure out what your dog enjoys the most about his barking -- his reward -- and remove the reward as far away from the picture as possible. If the reward is something like squirrels or birds, place a squirrel or bird feeder in an area of your yard that the dog cannot see or access. This will lure the birds and squirrels to another part of the yard and give your dog less reinforcement for barking.

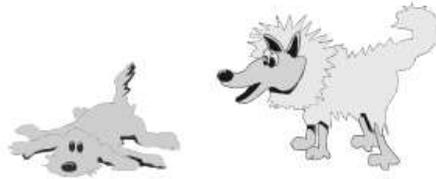
AS A LAST RESORT

If you have tried all of these suggestions, and have considered all of your available options, but your landlord is still threatening to evict you and your dog, there is a humane alternative to simply giving up your apartment (or your dog, for that matter). You can actually have your dog "de-barked". As strange as that may sound, there is a very safe and simple operation that essentially will turn the volume way down on your dog's bark. The dog will still have a bark, but it will sound more like a cough. If this operation is necessary to save your dog from the pound and to restore sanity in your household, it is a worthwhile last resort measure.

RECOMMENDED READING: The Bark Stops Here by Terry Ryan



CALMING SIGNALS: UNDERSTANDING YOUR DOG'S NON-VERBAL LANGUAGE



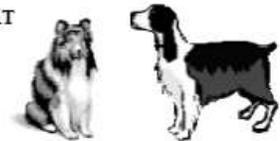
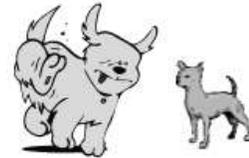
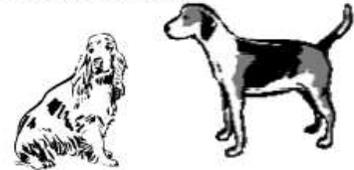
A short summary and illustration of the work by Turid Rugaas of Norway

Reference: Turid Rugaas. *On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals*. 1997. *Calming Signals: What Your Dog Tells You*. (video) 2000. Both are available from **Legacy by Mail** and are excellent references well worth having! (360) 683-9646 P.O. Box 697 Carlsborg, WA 98324 www.legacy-by-mail.com

What Are Calming Signals?

Calming signals are certain behaviors used to communicate from dog to dog that no conflict is desired and no harm is intended. Dogs use these signals with each other to calm each other down and to help keep the peace in a pack. Calming signals are all about preventing and avoiding an argument or conflict. Sometimes dogs even use these signals to calm themselves down when they feel stressed. Many times dogs give these signals to humans, but they go unrecognized and un-returned – many times this lack of understanding leads to misunderstandings between humans and dogs.

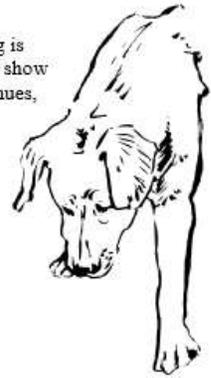
- TURNING OF THE HEAD / AVERTING THE EYES
- TURNING THE BODY AWAY
- TONGUE FLICKING
- FREEZING POSITION / STOPPING / SITTING / LAYING FLAT
- WALKING SLOWLY WITH TAIL MOVING SLOWLY
- YAWNING / STRETCHING
- SNIFFING
- SCRATCHING
- LIFTING THE PAW / BOWING
- URINATING
- SHAKING OFF
- PRETENDING TO BE INTERESTED IN SOMETHING ELSE
- SPLITTING UP (A THIRD DOG COMES IN BETWEEN TWO DOGS THAT ARE IN CONFLICT – NOT FRONTALLY, BUT FROM THE SIDE OR BEHIND)
- ARCHING PATHS (AWAY FROM EACH OTHER TO COMMUNICATE THAT NO HARM IS INTENDED)





How Can Calming Signals Be Used By Humans?

Humans should learn to recognize calming signals so that they understand when a dog is stressed. If a dog is giving these signals, he's waiting for the signals to be returned to show that no conflict is desired. If the signals are not returned and the stressful event continues, the dog may continue with more signals to try to communicate again, or may try to leave the situation. If the dog is unable to leave the situation and is forced to deal with the stress, the dog may have no other choice but to react defensively. (This is often the scenario of many dog biting incidents with children, although the calming signals before the conflict often go un-noticed.)



- Humans can learn to recognize these calming signals in training and realize that a dog is feeling stressed and trying to communicate that feeling....not being disobedient.
- Humans can learn to mimic these same signals (especially the yawning, head turning, and stretching with arms pointed down) to calm a dog down that is worried.
- Humans can use the technique of "splitting" to maintain better relationships between dogs and to communicate desire for pack harmony.

Please note: splitting does **not** mean putting oneself in the middle of a dog fight...it means applying it when two dogs are interacting energetically, but neither is giving calming signals. It's a means of saying "o.k., guys, knock it off", but should **not** be used in a dog fight. Dog fights are best disrupted by making a loud noise away from the dogs...like clapping your hands, shaking up a can of soda and letting it spurt out, throwing water on the dogs, or dropping something on the floor. **Never, ever put your hands or body anywhere near dogs' heads to break up a dog fight.**

- Humans can use arching paths on walks to help dogs learn to properly communicate to other dogs and to help them avoid conflicts.
- Humans can learn to avoid dog aggression by recognizing these calming signals and returning the calming signals to let the dog know that no harm is intended.

