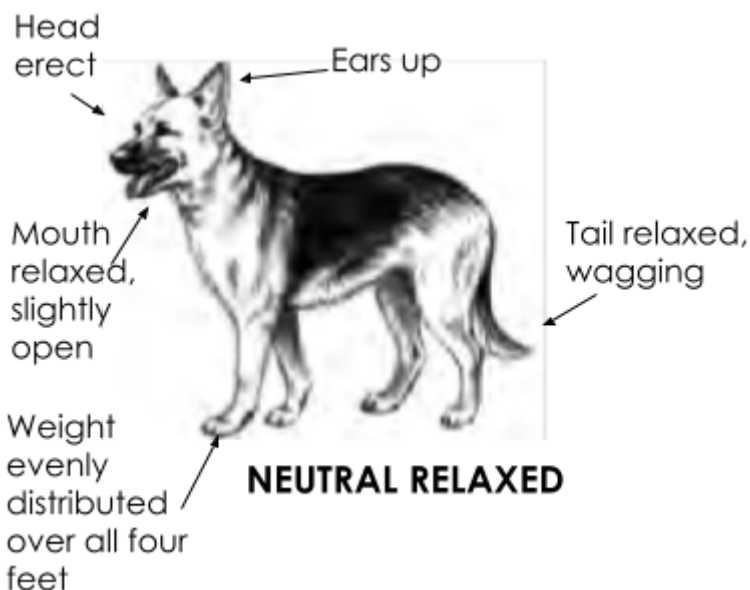


Reading Canine Body Language

Tips from H.O.P.E. Animal Rescue

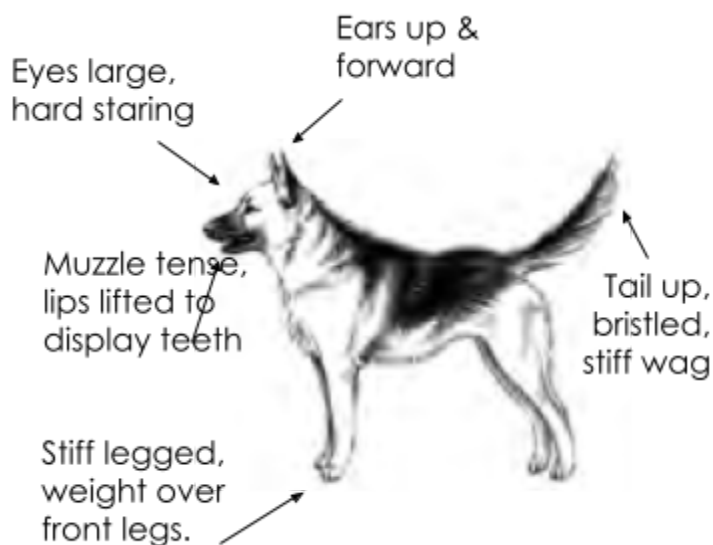


While dog cannot speak, they do display their state of mind via their body language. By taking careful note of ear position, pupil dilation, facial tension (particularly around the muzzle and forehead), tail carriage and body weight distribution, an observer can detect whether a dog is relaxed or fearful, or acting in a submissive or dominant manner toward the observer.



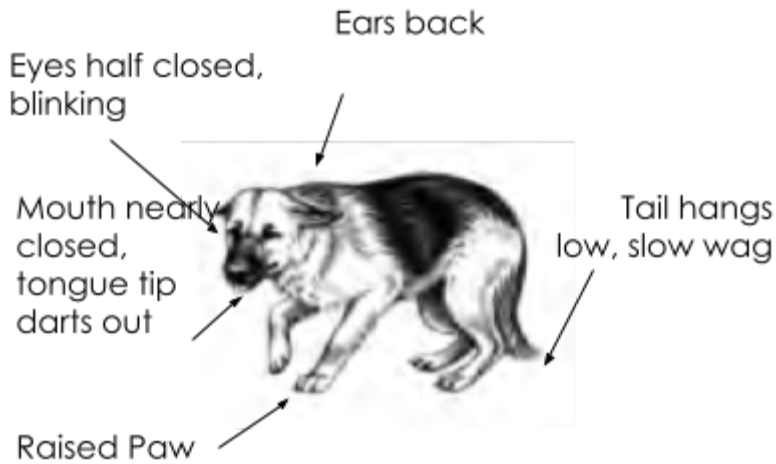
Aggressive Attack:

This threatening posture is used to chase another away or if necessary, to attack in order to protect possessions, pack or self.



Arousal

The dog has been stimulated by something in their environment. When the dog is excited, the hackles will be down and the tail will be carried in a little lower and will loosely wag. The muzzle will be relaxed and the tongue may be seen. This posture may be displayed to subordinates in order to express higher ranking pack position.

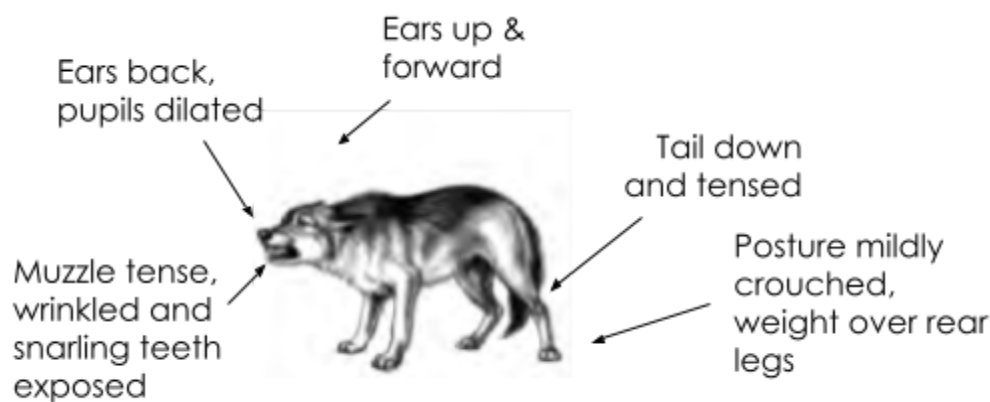
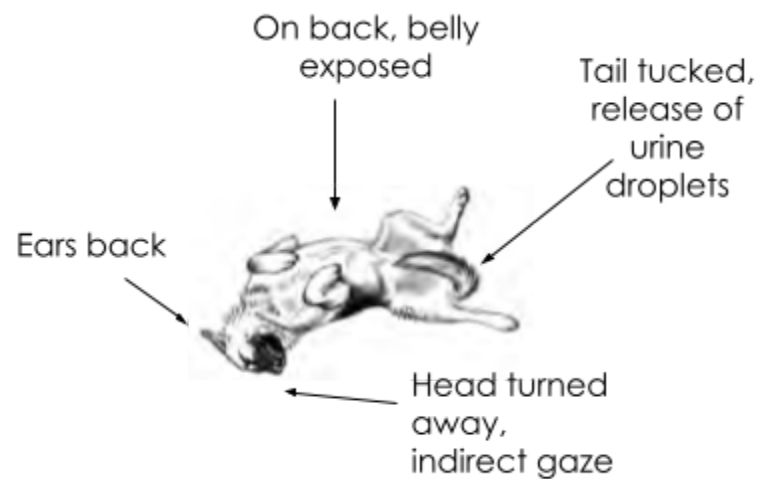


Active Submission:

This pacifying posture is used when a dog acknowledges another dog or human's higher social ranking, or to inhibit another's aggression.

Passive Submission:

Bellying up indicates surrender, a pacifying gesture offered to a more dominate or aggressive individual.



Defensive Aggression:

When fearful, a dog will give warning signals to indicate they do not wish to be approached.