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Popular Article

# A Glance into Canine Behaviour: Interpreting Canine Language

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## Introduction

Can dogs communicate through verbal language? Indeed, dogs possess numerous means to convey their sentiments, emotions, desires, and intentions, hence the response should be affirmative. Dogs, like humans, engage in both verbal and nonverbal forms of communication to interact with each other and their human owners. It is crucial to comprehend the communication of your pets to raise them effectively and ensure that they receive their entitlements, companionship, and wellbeing. Simultaneously, certain dogs may experience multiple behavioral abnormalities throughout their lifespan, which can frequently become a threat. This article aims to investigate the communication methods of dogs, focusing particularly on the interpretation of their tail wagging and ear locations. Dogs lack the ability to verbally communicate, yet they possess the capacity to successfully convey messages through nonverbal means. Here are some significant elements of their nonverbal communication.

### Ears not only perceive sound, but also convey a multitude of stories:

- When a dog's ears are completely upright and facing forward, it indicates the dog's state of being alert and attentive. These dogs are actively involved in their environment, prepared to react to stimuli and potential dangers.
- When a dog is alert and places its ears forward, it indicates that it is self-assured, attentive, and optimistic. It indicates that the dog is prepared for engagement, either with other canines or humans.

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- When a dog keeps one ear up and the other down, it signifies their curiosity and perceptiveness. They are actively seeking information from their surroundings, displaying an inquisitive nature and readiness to explore.
- When a dog's ears are tightly drawn back against their skull, it is a certain sign of fear, anxiety, and submissiveness. These dogs have a strong inclination to reduce their visibility and prevent conflicts. It is important to establish a secure and comforting atmosphere for them.
- In severe instances, dogs may tightly press their ears against their skull, which is indicative of strong anxiety or hostility. This is a distinct warning sign. When encountering such dogs, exercise caution and attempt to give them both physical distance and emotional support.
- When a dog's ears are facing forward, it is a clear indication of their confidence, attentiveness, and positive attitude.
- On the other hand, when a dog's ears are pulled back, it suggests defensiveness or defensive aggression. These dogs exhibit caution and unease - establish a nurturing setting to promote their sense of safety.
- Therefore, in addition to correctly identifying their needs and goals, a complete grasp of a dog's ear position and movement aids in our ability to comprehend the dog's mental state and strengthen our ties with them.

**Examine the dog's expressions by looking into his eyes; this will give your insight into how he is feeling.**

The saying "the eyes are the window to the soul" is applicable to canines as well. Dogs can convey their innermost thoughts and feelings via their expressions on the face and eyes. Some of the meanings conveyed by a dog's expressions and eyes are as follows.

- Making and maintaining eye contact is a key component of human communication. The same holds true for dogs: making and keeping eye contact is a certain way to win their trust and affection. Meeting and maintaining eye contact is all that is required of us.
- If the dog's eyes are gentle and relaxed, it means they are happy and affectionate, but if they are angry and daring, it means they are ready to fight. Pay close attention and take appropriate action
- Soft and relaxed eyes of a dog are an indication of trust, happiness, and comfort. The dog is content, its health is guaranteed, and we can provide a loving home for it.
- To communicate their need for calm, some dogs squint and blink. The canines' non-threatening intentions and attempts to alleviate stress are conveyed by these



movements. Always keep the pet's best interests in mind and do your best to make them feel safe and reassured.

- By blinking on purpose, dogs show their "soft eyes" or "eye kisses"—a sign of trust, calm, and lack of aggression. To foster a close relationship with your pet and establish a peaceful, inviting environment, it is important to return the favors.
- Dilated pupils in your dog's eyes might indicate a variety of emotions, including fear, enthusiasm, and stress. Look for other cues in the dog's body language to help you understand what is going on and how to best assist these canines.
- As a sign of anxiety, fear, or discomfort, dogs may make the half-moon or whale-eye eye shape. In this state, the white of the eye is easily seen. In this case, you may safely presume that the dog is anxious and respond accordingly to help him relax and feel more at ease.
- When a dog stares intently at an object or person, it is an indication that he is ready to confront any danger that may come his way. It can also mean he wants to play. Consider additional cues from body language and respond appropriately.
- Therefore, by comprehending canine eye contact and facial expressions, one can discern the intentions and feelings of canines. An in-depth analysis of the same can enhance the emotional welfare of your dogs.

### **Rather than being inanimate, the tails convey a great deal of emotion:**

Dogs' tail wagging and positioning are highly indicative of their intentions, feelings, and sentiments. It is true that when dogs are delighted, exuberant, and cheerful, they wag their tails. The dog's level of excitement and pleasure is directly proportional to the height, velocity, and intensity of the wag. Conversely, canines can employ their tails as an adaptable mode of communication, capable of transmitting an extensive spectrum of sentiments to both their canine companions and to humans.

- A dog holding its tail high and upright indicates confidence, assertiveness, and dominance. Engage with these dogs in a manner that demonstrates both reverence and prudence.
- When dogs keep their tails low and tucked, it indicates fear, nervousness, and submissiveness. These canines are highly susceptible and want to avoid engaging in fights. If the dogs carry their tails in a neutral position, neither too high nor too low, it suggests that they are peaceful and relaxed.



- During social encounters, a dog's tail wagging can provide insight into its behavior. A calm and loose wag suggests that the dog is friendly and playful.
- On the other hand, a rigid and quick wag may indicate that the dog is nervous and potentially violent. Handle the dogs in a manner that is appropriate and fitting.
- The dog's slow, lateral tail wagging may indicate inquiry, but a fast, broad wag accompanied by a relaxed body position suggests enthusiasm and expectation.
- Nevertheless, it is crucial for the pet owner to have knowledge of the typical tail carriage and location specific to each breed of dogs to accurately read the messages conveyed by the tail.

So, one of the efficient ways dogs communicate is by situating themselves and wagging their tails. We can form a stronger, more compassionate bond with our dogs if we learn to read their tail language.

**Barking is just as beneficial as speaking, so pay attention to its language.** Dogs emit diverse vocalizations to communicate their emotions, transmit information, and notify other canines or their caretakers under specific circumstances. Now, let us explore the various forms of barks and vocalizations that dogs employ for communication.

- Short, sharp barks from your dog indicate that he is trying to alert you to danger or anything strange. Its alertness is a cue for you to respond appropriately.
- When your dog is aroused, his barks may seem lively and full of energy. When a dog makes these noises, he is usually trying to get other people to join in on the fun by waving his tail.
- To defend their territory and the people and things in it, dogs often resort to deep and forceful barking. Different from defensive barks, invasive barks are emitted whenever the dog perceives the presence of an outsider.
- Take note of the scenario after you've recognized such barks. When dogs howl, it could be a reaction to something specific, an indication of their anxiety or loneliness, or both.
- Whining and whining are low-volume, high-pitched sounds that dogs make when they are unhappy or trying to get someone's attention. Pawing and nudging are common words to describe these sounds. Give them the reassurance and solace they need.



- So, dogs have always had a wide range of vocalizations at their disposal, from the most basic tail wags to complex words. Their masters should try to understand canine behavior and communicate with them appropriately.

### **The role of the paws in the language of dog**

A lot of kids are very interested when their dogs shake hands with them. The way a dog's paws move sends a lot of different messages. It shows how they feel and what they need.

- The dog typically raises a paw to show that it is interested and attentive. The gesture is typically accompanied by a forward stance and cocked head.
- Dogs frequently paw as a way to get attention and start conversations. It's critical to identify the pawing behavior in order to comprehend his possible wants.
- Your dog is communicating its need for physical affection when it rests its paw on you or gives you a gentle prod. This shows that the dog trusts you and looks to you for comfort.
- When a dog is nervous, he may paw at doors, objects, or your body as a sign that he needs your assistance. Give him the assistance he needs and comfort him.
- Dogs can paw at or push their food and drink bowls with their paws to interact with them. It can be a sign of their dietary choices or of their demand for fresh water. Their nutrition should be adjusted by taking note of these paw motions.
- It is rather enjoyable to interact with dogs when you can teach them to shake hands or give high fives. When you support them after such actions, they actively interact with you and react to your cues.

### **Positions and postures of the body also play a part in how dogs talk**

Dogs have an amazing ability to speak through their positions, postures, and gestures.

- By voluntarily rolling onto its back and showing its belly, the dog shows its submission and trust. Make sure they feel safe and comfortable by acknowledging and respecting their submissive gesture.
- The "Play Bow" position is common in dogs; in this position, the dog bends forward, legs spread wide, and rear legs lifted. Their amiability and eagerness to play are evident in this. This is the perfect setting for some lighthearted, fun sessions with your dog.
- A dog that stands tall and proud with its head held high, shoulders back, and tail wagging displays an air of self-confidence and aggression.



- When a dog's hackles, or the hairs down its back, stand up, it can mean one of three things: fear, excitement, or hostility. Use other cues to decipher the posture. A dog's dread is evident when it assumes a freeze position, in which it stands still while clenching its jaws and muscles. This protective stance can be the first step in a fight
    - or-flight reaction.
  - A dog's demeanor conveys its level of happiness and contentment when it moves with a fluid, relaxed gait. Their bodies wiggle and their faces show signs of relaxation as they wag their tails.
  - When a dog snores and sleeps when you are around, it means it trusts you a lot. It shows how at ease the dog is in its environment and how much faith it has in its carers. Just provide it a safe place to sleep and honor its desire for sleep.
- So, from moving their tails to making different sounds, dogs have been very good at communicating. It is up to their owners to learn how to talk to and associate with dogs properly.

