

KNOW THE SIGNS A DOG MAY BITE.

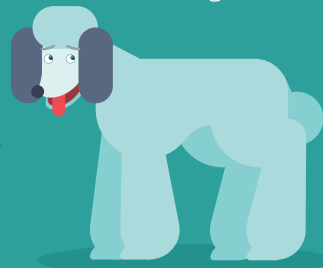
Nervous, Fearful or Stressed Dogs

A dog will almost always warn through body language that they are beginning to get anxious and uncomfortable and may bite. These early warning signs mean we should STOP what we're doing. These are commonly called 'calming signals'. Some early warning signs a dog is becoming stressed include:

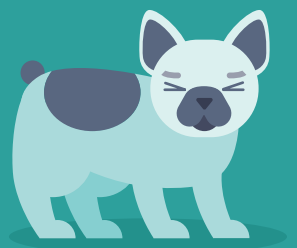
Yawning



Panting



Blinking fast and/or looking away



Licking lips or nose



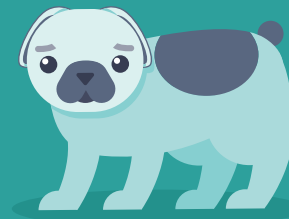
Whale eye



Low head and/or tail tucked between the legs



Ears held back or flat against the head



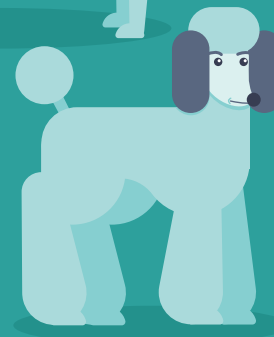
Alert Dogs

Alert dogs may be in a situation where they are interested in something but are undecided on how to react. Depending on the situation, they may decide to react in playfulness, fear or aggression. These signals could include:

Stiff tail and rigid way



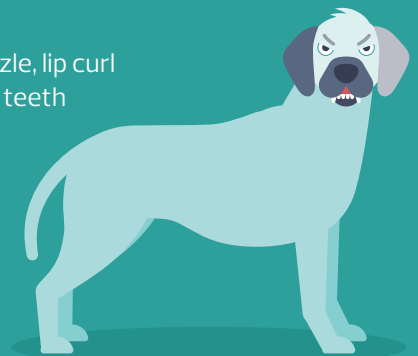
Tense mouth and/or hard stare



Aggressive Dogs

When dogs continue to feel anxious and their 'calming signals' have been ignored, they may send further signals to show they're anxious or even bite. They may be acting defensively or offensively. Either way, they are clearly saying "Back away from me" and may bite at any time. They may begin to growl, grow tense and show other aggression signs including:

Wrinkled muzzle, lip curl and/or baring teeth



Raised hackles



Relaxed Dogs

Dogs at their best typically have a loose body posture, open mouths, relaxed or forward ears, a neutral tail and soft eyes.