



**What You Need to Know About Dogs**



Possession is 100% of the law.

Dogs will rarely take something from another dog, even a puppy, unless the other dog gives the item by walking away from it.

Once an item has been left, it belongs to whomever picks it up first.

Try to trade your dog when you need to take something from him (except in emergencies) in order to avoid being rude.



Polite dogs approach others off to the side rather than head on.

Approaching someone head-on can be considered quite rude.

Dogs usually prefer to approach at an angle.

When they are feeling a little anxious, dogs often make a wide, meandering arc around the individual they are approaching.



If it's edible, eat it.  
If it's chewable, chew it.

If you don't want your dog to eat something, don't leave it where your dog can get it.

This includes your kitchen trash can.

Need to chew

Things that smell like you.

Try not to soil your living space.



Dogs consider where they spend time to be their living space.

Block off unused rooms to keep dogs from seeing them as appropriate bathroom areas.

Try teaching your dog to nose or paw a bell on a string attached to your door so he can easily tell you when he needs to go out.

Dogs are most likely to have accidents in public when they are in large, open areas like malls and airports.

Be sure to potty your dog before going inside a public place and distract him well when headed outside.



**Never sleep alone if you can help it.**

Sleep makes one incredibly vulnerable.

It might seem like forcing someone to sleep alone would increase independence but studies indicate the reverse is actually true.

The feeling of safety gained when sleeping close to 'family' ultimately leads to greater security, confidence, and independence.

A photograph of two wire-haired dogs, likely Schnauzers, running across a green lawn. The dog in the foreground is running towards the camera, holding two sticks in its mouth. The dog in the background is running away from the camera. The scene is set outdoors with trees in the background.

**If it runs, chase it.**

**If it chases, run from it.**

Most dogs reflexively chase small creatures who run.

Be prepared to distract your dog when small and furry critters dash past.

If you want your dog to follow you, face your destination rather than your dog.

**If you aren't sure, be still until you are.**



When faced with something confusing or alarming, your dog needs time to assess your reaction and the situation at a distance from which he feels safe.

Give him this time and distance.

If he still won't advance after a minute or two, share your bravery saying, "We've got this!" in a totally "cool", nonchalant tone.



**If it's human, make it happy!**

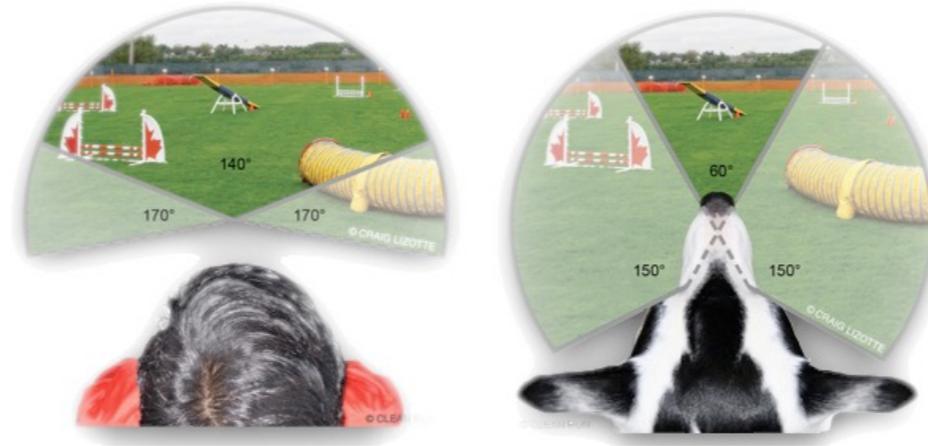
Dogs are, like people, highly social animals.

Social animals want to fit in with and please those in their group.

Our dogs do not do things to deliberately frustrate or anger us.

Any failure to make us happy is likely the result of a misunderstanding between two different species.

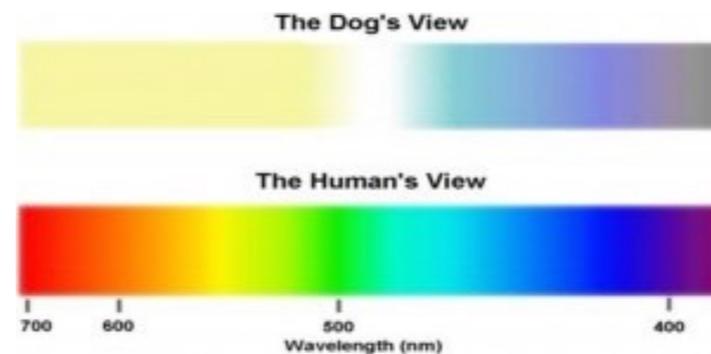
# Vision in Dogs



Their visual field is wider than our own but dogs have a narrow field of binocular vision.

Dogs are short so what they see is different from what we see.

Dogs do not see detail well. They would see the box below as a gray blob:



Dogs are believed to be red-green colorblind but they do see other colors.

Dogs have many rods, the receptor cells responsible for seeing motion and in low light.

Vision decreases with age.

# Hearing in Dogs

Dogs can distinguish changes in pitch and tone too subtle to be detected by human ears.

Dogs can hear higher pitches than can people. High pitched noises, like those produced by dog whistles, are thought to be painful for dogs to hear,

A dog's hearing can be damaged by loud noises and does diminish with age.

Sound impacts the mood and relaxation level of dogs much as it does ours.

# Smell in Dogs

In visual terms-What we can see from a 1/3 mile away dogs could see equally as well from 3,000 miles away.

Inhaled air goes in through the center part of nostrils.  
Exhaled air goes out the side slits.

When dogs chatter their teeth, they may well be pushing scent up to an organ dedicated to smelling chemicals called the vomeronasal or Jacobson's organ.

Every dog's nasal plane (nose area) is as individual as our fingerprint is to us.

Dogs likely tell time by changes in odors.

# Taste in Dogs

A dog has approximately 1700 taste buds to a human's 9000.

Can taste sweet, salty, savory, bitter, and sour just like people.

Dogs appear to favor sweet tastes.

Dogs seem to develop preferences for taste based on emotion.

Dogs have taste buds for water that become more effective after they eat salty or sweet things.

# Touch in Dogs

The areas on a dogs most sensitive to touch are paws, especially between toes, muzzle and nose.

Light pressure is stimulating to dogs. Deep pressure is relaxing to dogs.

A study in 2015 showed that dogs experienced the largest increase in oxytocin, known as the bonding hormone, when **touched** by their people.

# Body Language in Dogs

## Circumstances Matter:

Actions and postures have different meanings depending on when and where they are used.

## Tense Muscles:

Muscular tension = stress.

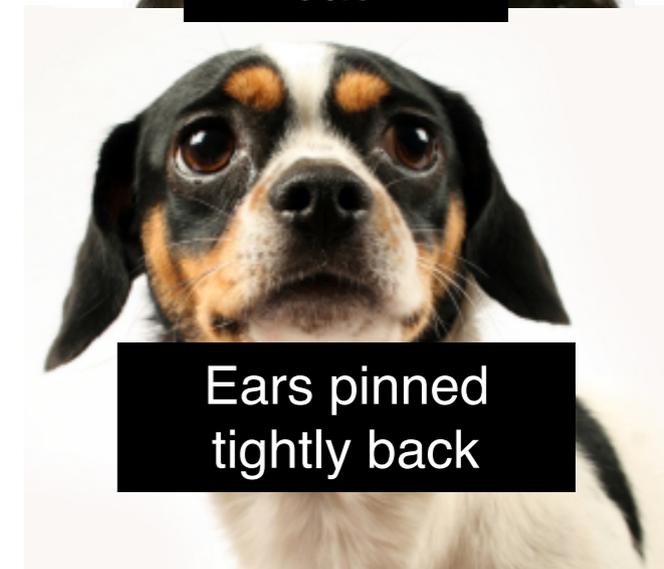
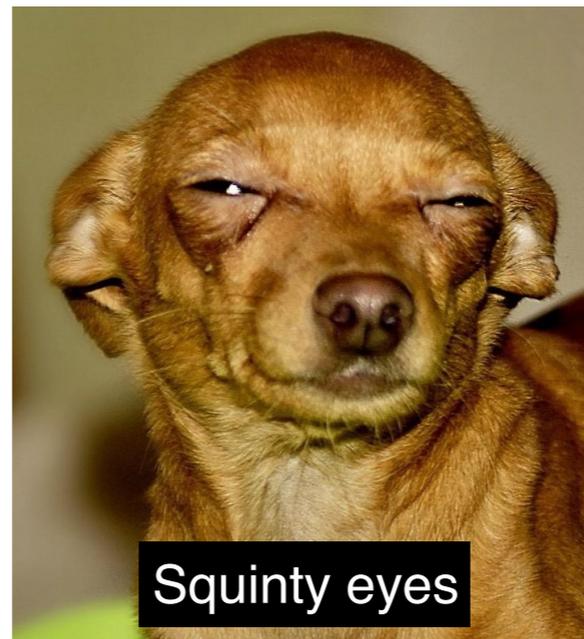
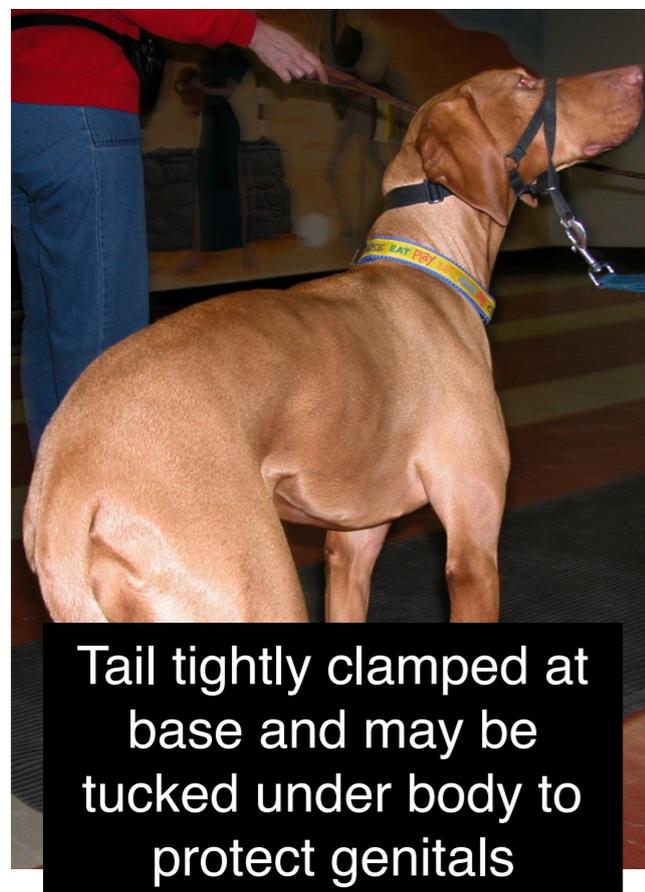
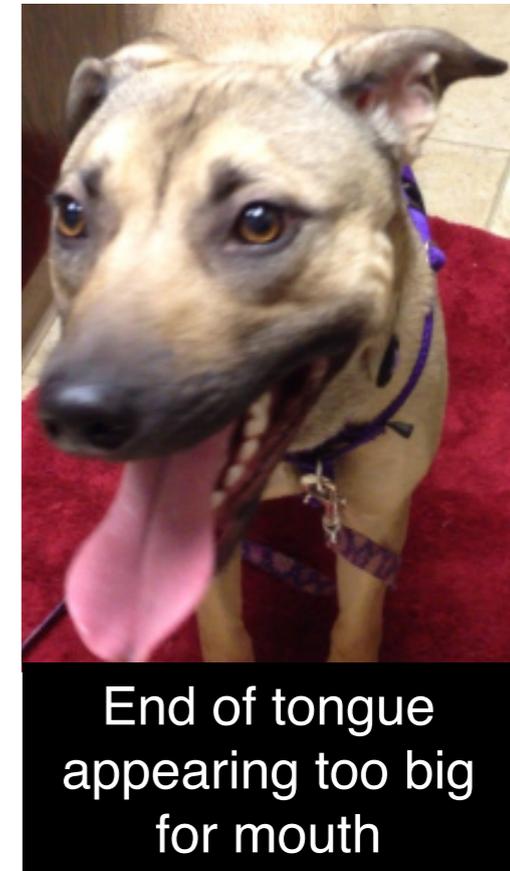
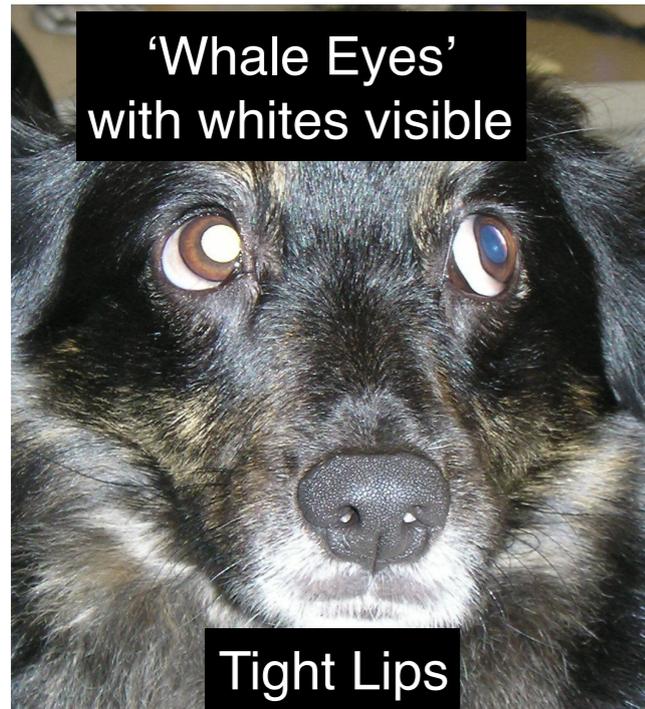
Stress may be from excitement, anxiety, or fear.

## Direction Tells:

Dogs lean backward when fearful or unsure and forward when feeling brave.



# Stressed Dogs



# Appropriate Dog-to-Dog Greeting Behaviors

Licks near the mouth

Bottom Sniffing

Inguinal Sniffing

Stretching with back legs out

**Body sideways**

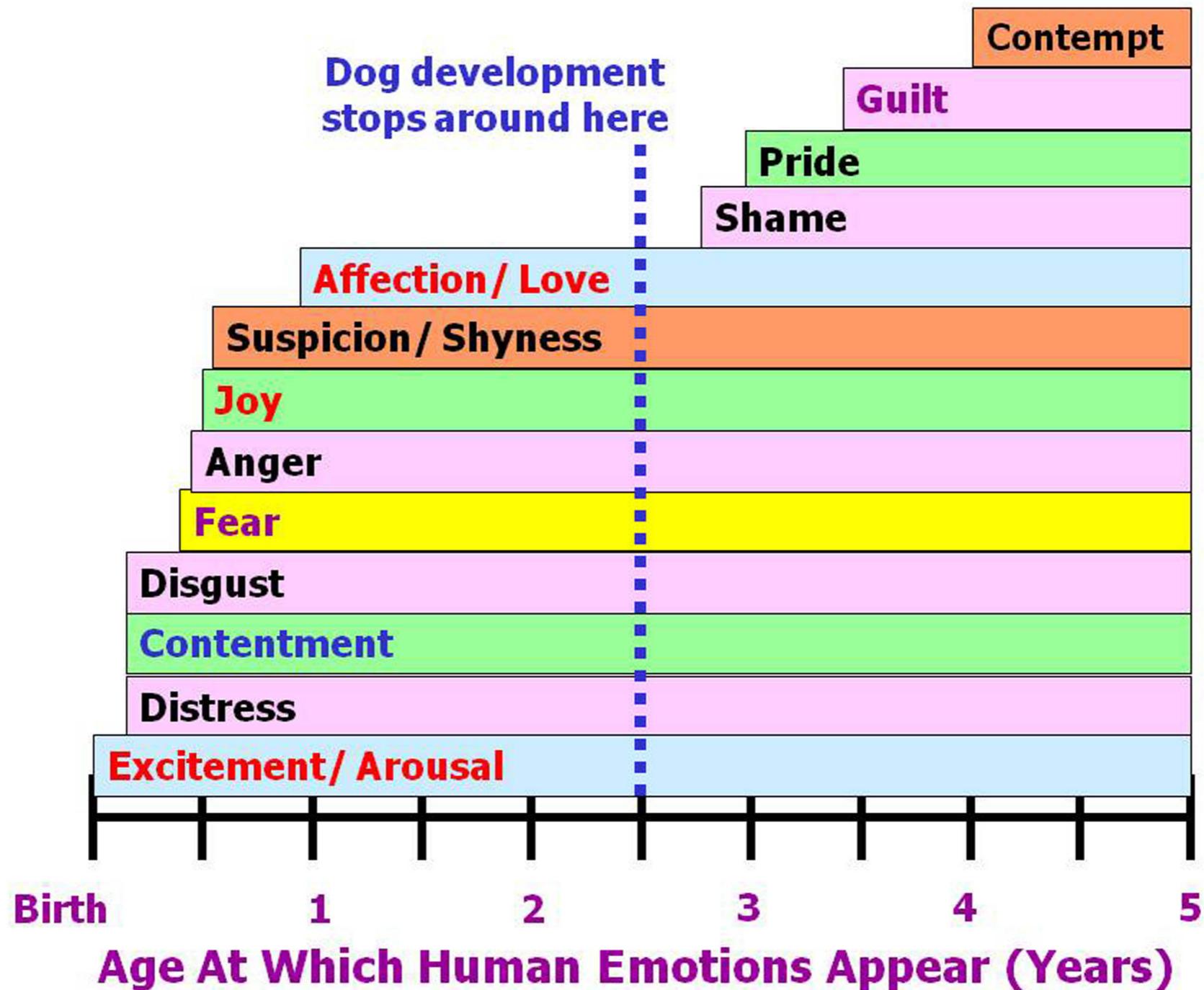
Gently moving tail

Soft eyes



**Our dogs must be comfortable and confident greeting other dogs. That means you must be confident in having them greet other dogs.**

# Emotion in Dogs (We Think)



**Toddlers (and our dogs) fear angering those to whom they are attached. In a child's/dog's mind, an angry parent might leave forever making survival impossible.**

# Cognition in Dogs

Cognition, as defined by the English Oxford dictionary, is the **mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses.**

Dogs have been shown to:

- Reason by Exclusion

- Classify objects based on characteristics

- Understand the situation of another

- Understand fairness

- Imitate others

- Learn Overnight

- Dream...and MORE

# Notes: