

This Is What Your Dog's Behaviors Really Mean

Published on December 19, 2019

Dogs do not see the world in the same way that we do. While this is the case, they do rely on their body language for communication. Read on to see the way they exhibit their feelings and emotions through their actions and demeanor! Some of these will definitely shock you.



On Hind Legs

There are several possible meanings when a dog stands up on its hind legs. It is likely to show affection. Just like humans, they want to hug sometimes. However, it can show playfulness when they are around other dogs. As long as they are not acting aggressively or growly, they are probably only playing.



[Worldwide](#)

Furniture Chewing

Pups also like to chew on various objects when they are teething. However, it could mean something else when they are no longer puppies. This does not mean they are bad dogs, however. There is a good chance that they are just not getting the physical activity they need. A good way to treat this is to take them out for a walk. If your dog ever starts chewing at the furniture, it is time to give them exercise.



How They Bark

There are several reasons dogs bark. If it is loud and frequent, it might be something urgent. Perhaps they sense danger and want to let you know. Shorter and softer barks, meanwhile, mean that they want to play. Loud barking can also mean that they are in pain. Make sure to pay attention to figure it out!



Bringing You Toys

Do not assume that your dog wants to play just because they have a toy in their mouth. One theory says that they want to please you this way. They consider you the alpha and want your respect. Another theory claims that this is their way of showing that they trust you. He has so much trust in you that he brings you such a valuable object. Of course, it might also mean that he loves you so much that he wants you to enjoy his prized possession. You might hurt his feelings if you throw the ball away after this!



When Dogs Yawn

Humans tend to yawn when they are bored or tired. However, dogs do this when they feel safe and secure. For them, it is a sign of submission. If you see a dog yawning 15 times, it means they feel relaxed. However, it can also be a sign of stress or anticipation. When a dog is in the vet's office, numerous yawns might reflect their nervousness. When they do this before a walk, it can be a way to keep their enthusiasm in check as well. Like humans, they also do it to show how tired they are.



Like A Caterpillar

Don't you just love it when your dog gets a good wiggle, kicks up their legs, and wiggle on their back? We cannot think of an image that makes us happier. There are times when the dog does it to scratch an itch, but it is possible that they only want to get your attention. Take the time to shower them with love!



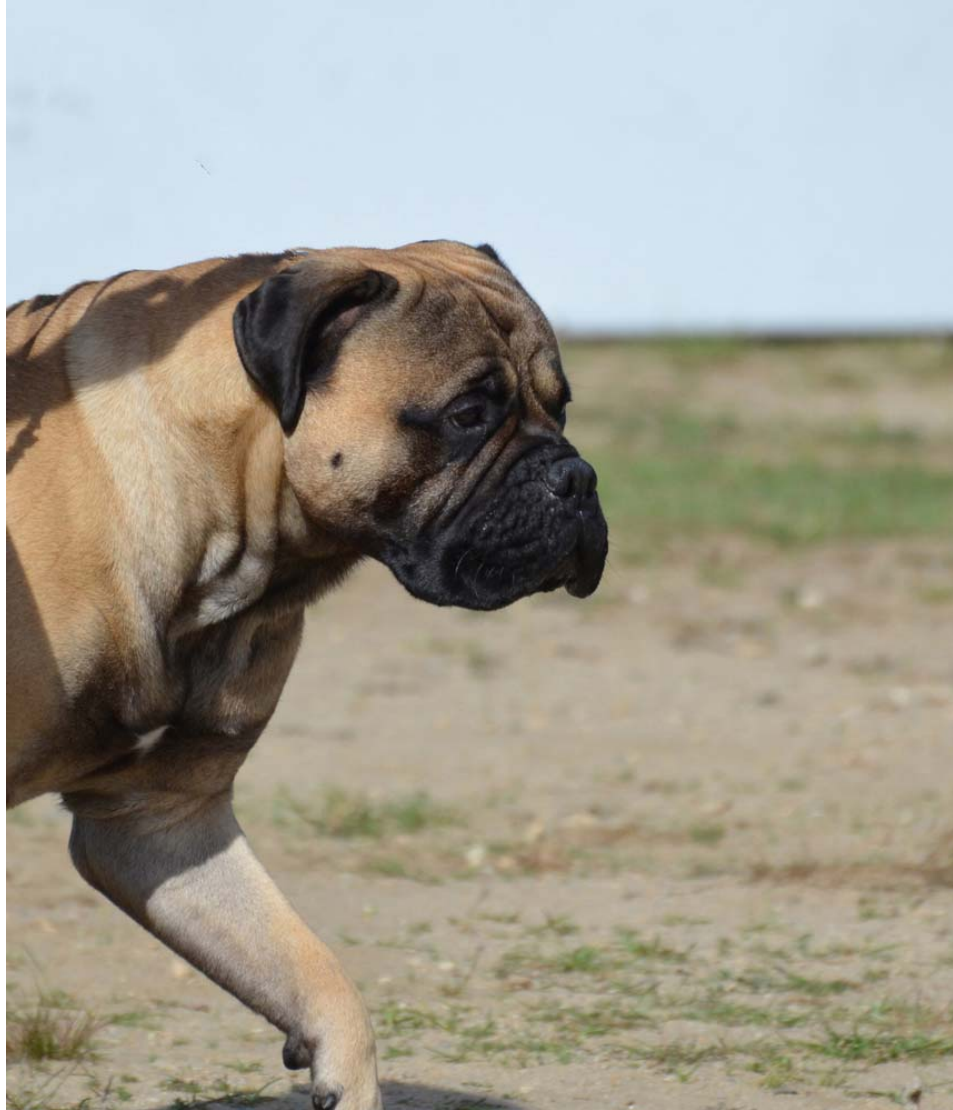
Before You Go

We bet you also feel guilty about leaving your pet home when you leave for work. Some people even spend money on doggy day cares to feel better about it! When your dog makes that sad face, you will understand why this is the case. Sometimes, they will wear a calm face, but there is no need to worry. Your dog knows that you will be back soon enough! That face is a sign of trust, not sadness.



Pacing Back And Forth

Your dog might be pacing because they feel nervous, excited, or bored. They like to pace around the room for the same reasons we do! When they are going around in circles, they likely want to play with you. This is the way dogs chase each other when they meet. Yes, it is a sign of playfulness!



Pointing Their Snout

Have you ever seen a dog freeze up and nudge its snout toward something? They might also lift a front paw. This is common among hunting breeds, but just about every dog does it too. Dr. Ellen Vindell said, “Dogs are just dogs, and there are certain behaviors that probably any dog that’s a dog can do.... You’ll see a sporting dog who circles like a herding dog, and you’ll get some herding dogs who point.”



Showing Discomfort

Aside from expressing how comfortable they are, yawns can also mean something else. If a dog yawns in public, they might be exhausted and hoping for an afternoon nap. Yes, it can mean anxiety and discomfort as well. Make sure to be on the lookout for this behavior when you notice that your dog is doing this a lot while in an unfamiliar place.



Tilting Their Heads

People tend to talk in a higher pitch when speaking to a dog. Dogs might tilt their head when you do this as if they are trying to understand what you are saying. Dogs are great at reading as well as responding to vocal cues and body language. They take everything in from reprimands to instructions. They can recognize certain words, so perhaps they are waiting for those associated with walks and treats! A theory says they move their heads like that to adjust the outer ears for better listening comprehension.



Sniffing Around

Dog noses are great for certain things. Humans have 5 million olfactory receptors, but they have 220 million! They can smell at least a thousand times better than we can. When they sniff around, they are either sensing danger or tracking prey. They will stay still and silent when they do this. Dogs can smell the difference among individual dogs or people. Yes, they can even tell identical twins apart!



Flipping Up Tongues

When dogs think they did something wrong, they might stick out their tongue and flip it up to apologize. They feel guilty and feel apologetic. It might also be their own way of putting on an innocent face. After all, who can possibly resist such an adorable face? Expect this look when they pee on the floor!



Flipping Up Tongues

Just Like Yoga

Unlike us, dogs do not just stretch after they wake up. They do so for the sake of their muscles. It can symbolize love and affection as well. When you get home to find your dog stretching, do not think that they just woke up. No, this is a way to show you that they are happy to see you! Aww.



Exposing Their Belly

When your dog shows you their belly, it means that he respects you and feels submissive. Perhaps they also want to play with you. The only way to respond here is to rub their belly! They will want it to happen again and again, so they will keep doing it. However, they also display this behavior when they are getting attacked by some other animal.



Exposing Their Belly

Tucking Their Tail

Your dog might be in distress if he tucks his tail in between his legs. These creatures do so when they are scared, ashamed, guilty, nervous, or uncertain. If your dog does this, it is a good idea to comfort him and ensure that he feels safe. Why not pet him and talk to him in a soft voice? Doggie treats also work well!



Tucking Their Tail

Raising Their Paws

A dog raising their paw might mean that they are looking to play or need something from you. Most pups and young dogs display behavior like this. When a pup wants to eat, it often puts their paws out for their mother. A puppy doing the same thing to you means that they want affection and love!



Raising Their Paws

Using Their Tails

It is no secret that a dog wagging their tail means that they are happy and excited. However, it can mean submissiveness when they hang the tail down as they do so. If you ever see a dog do this, show them love, affection, and security. When they wag it high, however, it means that they are alert and playful!



Using Their Tails



Dragging Their Bum

It might look funny when your dog drags their bum, but you should be concerned. Called scooting, dogs often do this when they have an impacted anal sac they want to release. Certain dog breeds suffer from it at higher rates. This can be truly uncomfortable, so make sure to bring your pal to the vet right away.



Dragging Their Bum

On Your Feet

Dogs like to lay on your feet when you are eating dinner or watching TV. It might be a little annoying, but your dogs mean well! This is their way to show their love and loyalty. They only want to be as close to you as possible. It is behavior that they got from their ancestors when they used to run as a pack.



On Your Feet

Leaning On You

If your dog leans on you while hanging out, you should be flattered! It is the equivalent of a hug for them. They are not being lazy. No, they only want to connect with you. Do not nudge your dog off the next time that they do this. We highly recommend simply letting them express affection in that way.



Leaning On You



Tackling You

We know that it is not comfortable to get tackled by your dog. Perhaps you have been injured this way in the past. They do not want to hurt you, however. This is their way to show you that they are happy to see you! They have been waiting for you to come back, and they cannot contain their excitement.



Tackling You

Flicking Ears

A dog flicking their ears is one that listens. This is common behavior among animals, as a matter of fact. It happens when they are unfamiliar with a sound and to figure it out. Let your dog try to figure things out for a second when you see this happening. We personally adore how inquisitive and observant they are!



Flicking Ears

Licking Themselves Clean

It is not a secret that dogs clean themselves by licking their bodies. When your dog is dirty, they will try to lick himself clean. However, it can mean that they are hurt as well. A dog licking their paws and legs a lot will mean a trip to the vet, especially if they do this near the joints. Better safe than sorry!



Licking Themselves Clean

Snarling And Showing Teeth

Dogs show their moods in a variety of ways. They are not always positive. A dog wrinkling their muzzle means aggression. If they ever snarl and show their teeth, it is important for you to remove them from whatever is going on. After all, it means that they are ready to attack at a moment's notice.



Snarling And Showing Teeth

Investigation Time

When you go out for a walk, there will come a time when your dog halts all of a sudden and raise a foot. No, they likely did not hurt themselves. They are actually figuring out whatever it was that caught their eyes. Their brains are working! Dogs also tend to sniff a lot when they are playing detective.



Investigation Time



Straightened Tail

A tail in the air can mean excitement or confidence. Dogs often do this when they meet another dog or animal. If the tail stays up and shaky, they might feel challenged. A happy and content dog often has their tail at level with the body. A tail hanging low or tucked between the legs can mean insecurity.



Straightened Tail

The Side Tongue

It is cute when dogs hang their tongues out of their mouths. It is a signal that they feel happy and calm! It will happen when you go out for a walk or play fetch. Excessively doing this might mean they have the “hanging tongue syndrome,” which is common among dogs with flat noses like bulldogs or boxers.



The Side Tongue

Digging Holes

Your dog does not have evil intentions when they dig up the yard. It is instinctual for them as it is encoded in their DNA. This is especially true for terrier breeds. They often dig in the yard to leave bones, toys, and other valuables there. It is also possible that they do this to look for prey or bury their dead.



Digging Holes

Why They Bite

It is not at all pleasant when you are bitten by your dog. However, it can mean playfulness and affection! Dogs bite one another when they play together. It is not considered aggressive, and this behavior carries over to the way they act towards you. Make sure to look out for signs of fear or aggression, however.



Why They Bite

Sleeping Beside You

Do not be offended if your furry friend likes to skip the dog bed and lay down beside you. They got it from their ancestors! Their forebears hunted in packs and slept together for security and warmth. Your dog only wants to get close to you. Take it as a compliment that they trust you enough to even do this.



Sleeping Beside You