

# DOG COMMUNICATION



Dogs use many signs other than a growl or bark to show how they feel. They have a communication system which enables them to work together, cooperate and avoid getting into conflicts. Knowing it will allow you to be able to remove your dog from an uncomfortable or stressful situation and prevent, in the worst cases, any unwanted reactive behaviour.

## CALMING SIGNALS

Calming signals are used by the dogs to keep peace and quiet, be friendly to each other or avoid conflicts and attempt to resolve them by calming others and itself.

The most common calming signals are:

- avoiding eye contact
- lip licking
- lifting a front paw
- crouching down/ play position
- a semicircle approach
- yawning
- moving as if in slow motion
- turning the head
- smelling the floor
- shaking
- staying still
- turning the body away
- sitting

## Calming Signals:



*Avoiding eye contact  
Slow blinking*



*Lip licking*



*Play position*



*Shake*



*Yawning*



*Turning the head or body away  
Sitting, lying down*



*Walking slowly  
A curved approach*

## STRESS ATTITUDE & REFLEX

When confronted with a stressful situation a stressed dog has 3 reflexes:

- 1 - Flight (runs to get far from the situation)
- 2- Freeze (tries to be small, invisible, avoid setting off the reaction)
- 3 - Fight (agressively tries to control the threat)

In a stressful situation your dog can't **eat, learn** or **remember**. Don't let your dog associate the "fight" option as the best option for him to resolve stressful situations. It's our responsibility to remove our dogs from a stressful situation or avoid it.

The most common stress signals:

- pupil dilation
- excessive salivation
- dandruff
- panting
- vocalisation
- sweaty pads
- tense body
- shaking body

