



UNDERSTANDING DOG BODY LANGUAGE



ACTIVE INFLUENCE

- Demands attention in a very active way, such as jumping up, barking at you, and mouthing or nipping

Requires a combination of active and passive training



PASSIVE INFLUENCE

- Engages you by staring at you for a pat, nudging or licking you, or dropping things at your feet to get you to play

This subtle behavior requires passive training



ASSERTIVE/AGGRESSIVE

- Exhibits staring, raised hackles and stillness
- Can become aggressive if you approach him or make sudden movements

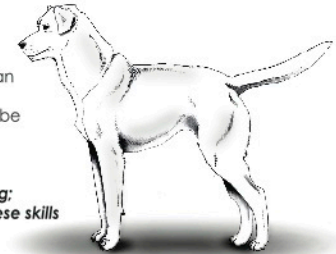
Requires careful training



ALERT/SELF-ASSURED

- Focuses more on his environment than on you
- His intense focus on distractions can be hard to break

Very smart and good at problem-solving; needs training that allows him to use these skills



FEARFUL/AGGRESSIVE

- Appears stressed, always on edge
- Tends to bark, lunge and growl at the slightest movement or noise; potential biter

Craves safety and needs confident, consistent leadership through appropriate training



ASSERTIVE/OVERLY CONFIDENT



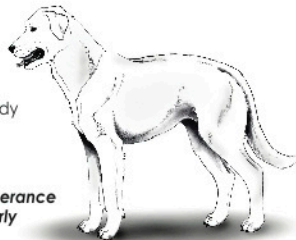
- Very confident, with tail held high
- Uses both active and passive influence to get what he wants

Requires careful training to prevent him from becoming Assertive/Aggressive

RELAXED/MIDDLE OF THE PACK

- Relaxed posture; his whole body appears to wag
- Lives to please, easygoing

Prone to over-exuberance if not trained properly



FEARFUL/NERVOUS



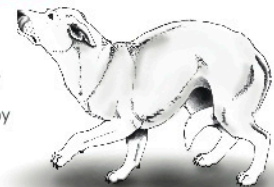
- Often sleeps with one eye open
- Always seems anxious and worried; constantly darts his eyes
- Sudden movement or noises cause him to bark, then retreat under a table or sofa

Requires careful training to prevent him from becoming Fearful/Aggressive

SHY/SUBMISSIVE/TIMID

- Shy; will often turn his body sideways when greeting people or dogs
- Shies away from being petted by strangers

Wants to please and is usually fairly easy to train



Please use this information as a general guide. Contact a professional to discuss your individual dog's body language.

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