

Dog behaviour Information Sheet (DISH)

Aim of research

The aim of this research is to evaluate the effectiveness of a newly designed Dog behavioural Information Sheet (DISH) in assisting owners report on the behaviour of their dogs when interacting with technology.

Please turn over for the information

It can be hard to work out what dogs feel or think sometimes, as they can't tell us themselves, but their body language can help us understand them better. Some body language that a dog expresses can be a sign of more than one emotion therefore it is important to see what category you think fits your dog best. This information sheet provides basic dog behaviour information categorised by emotions. It is recommended that you read the whole document in one go and then reflect on how your dog expresses these emotions.

Happy Dogs

- Relaxed body posture and soft features
- Ears in a natural position
- Wagging tail
- A dog that wants to play may jump around in front of you or roll on his back.



Playful Dogs

- Wagging with entire body/hips, possibly barking excitedly often with the bottom raised in a play position.
- Face is interested and alert with the mouth open
- High pitch barking
- Sneezing for no reason sign of laughter



Attention Seeking Dogs

- Attention-grabbing tricks: sitting next to you, putting their face close to yours or in your lap, barking, howling and patting you with a paw.
- A dog getting ignored when trying to seek attention will often become vocal through barks and whines in order to get your attention (mostly seen in multiple even-pitched grumbles)

Worried Dogs

- Head position low with its tail between its legs. Ears are back and the dog will often yawn.
- The dog will often avoid eye contact or turn their head away from you and lick their lips
- Ears are positioned back

Bad-tempered and Angry Dogs

- Growling or baring its teeth (gums sometimes visible) or a wrinkled nose - they might feel threatened and want to be left alone.
- Dog will often hold its gaze upon something it does not like while in this stance
- Stiffened body posture with weight leaning forward and ears up.
- Back hackles may be raised and their tail might be held up.
- A low snarl is often used to try and warn other things away
- Some dogs lay down and cover with their ears flat but still showing teeth but it is scared with its tail between its legs
- Eyes dilated
- A high-pitch grumble is a defensive sound
- White of the eyes can be visible (coined Whale Eye)



Sick Dogs

- Droopy ears and tail
- Less energetic and 'bouncy' than usual – even grumpy.
- May also lose interest in food.
- Drooling (often proceeds vomiting)



Frightened Dogs

- Flattened ears, lowered tail or tail between their legs.
- Hiding behind their owner, whining or growling - move away from the dog.
- Move away from the item that is scary
- A dog may wag its tail here slowly and often between its legs (no other body movement)
- Shivering
- Pacing around
- Crying whine may happen here to get help from the owner
- Sweaty paws (leaving wet footprints)
- Raising of the front paw often happens here when the dog is sitting
- Glancing around frantically



Stressed Dogs

- Yawns and licks nose
- Scratching itself
- Shaking to relieve stress
- Shivering

Confused Dogs

- Tilt head from side to side
- Explore the object they are inquisitive about through licking, sniffing and with their paw



Dog Facial Expressions

Below are examples of the same expression in a police dog with the identifiable emotions to give you more of an indication into dogs' facial expressions



This information sheet was built using the RSPCA guidelines and a qualified vet and behaviourist. The dog facial expressions were taken from Bloom & Friedmans (2013) work on Classifying dogs' facial expressions. For more information on dog behaviour please see: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior>