

Basic Body Language Course - Demo

- Introduction
- Do dogs have feelings?
- Learning to speak dog
- More examples
- Summary
- Quiz



This is a free introductory demo containing a small sampling of actual material from the course



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Introduction

Course content – what's in

- In this course we will talk all about how dogs communicate with body language.
- We will consider each body part and what signs dogs give that help us understand how they are feeling.
- There are photos, videos and handouts in this lesson. The handouts are downloadable and you are welcome to distribute these and use them for any educational purpose.



Introduction

Course content – behaviour

- In this course we use the term **behaviour** frequently. We are not referring to good behaviour or bad behaviour, but to behaviour in general.
- The Merriam-Webster on-line dictionary definition of behaviour that applies to our use of the term in this course is this:
“Anything that an organism does involving action and response to stimulation.”
- Some examples include, panting, looking away, walking, running, blinking, watching, sniffing, sneezing, growling, raising fur...essentially anything that we can observe the dog doing.



Introduction

Course content – what's out

- This course does not talk about how to handle or train dogs or how to deal with dog encounters (except in a few specific instances).
- Other online courses will cover topics related to how to be safe around dogs and apply risk assessment principles specifically for:
 - Kids and families
 - Home day care providers
 - Workers who encounter dogs on the job
 - Dog breeders
 - Dog owners
 - Veterinary professionals
 - Shelter staff
 - Groomers, pet sitters and dog walkers
 - Social services workers



Introduction

Course content – Be a Tree

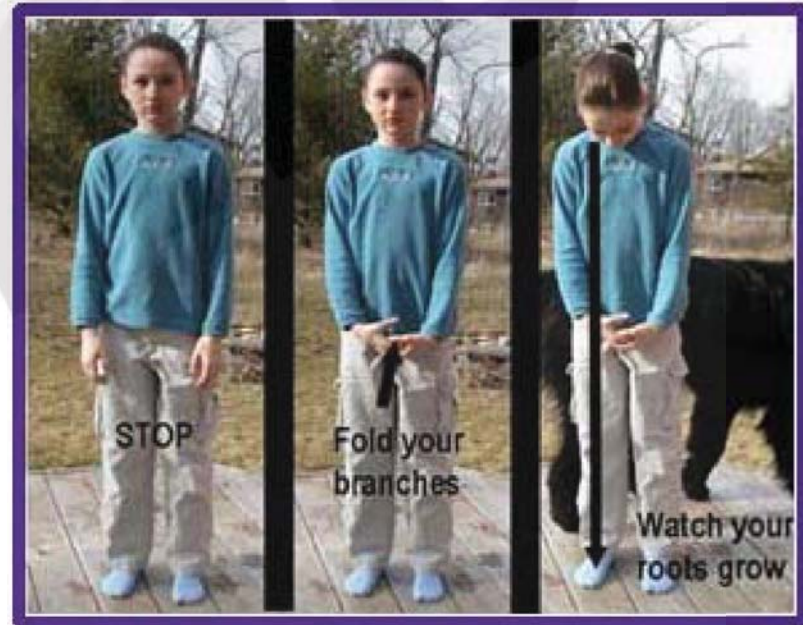
- While this course is intended to cover only dog body language and not how to handle dogs or react to incidents involving dogs, there is one very important concept that everyone needs to know and so we will mention it here.
- This is **Be a Tree** if your own dog or a strange dog bothers or threatens you or just becomes too frisky or nippy.
- To **Be a Tree**, stand still look at the ground and wait for the dog to go away. Trees are boring and the dog will lose interest and go away. When was the last time you saw a dog chasing a tree?



Introduction

Course content – Be a Tree

- These photos show how to be a tree. Practice this yourself and teach others.
- On the next screen you will see a video of the tree in action. This is a friendly, well-trained dog, but she likes to chase and play. Watch how she loses interest when the kids stand still and becomes interested again as soon as they move.



Introduction

About the Videos

You will need Flash Player version 8 or higher to view the videos. You most likely have this already if you have been watching animations or videos on the internet. If not, download it for free from the link below.

You may see a popup bar across the top of your browser window when the videos try to load that informs you that your browser is protecting your computer from active content. We guarantee that our content will not damage your computer. Right click on the bar and select "allow active content" so that the videos will be allowed to play.

[Download flash player](#)



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Introduction

About the Videos

These videos will open in a new browser window. You can adjust the size and quality of the video by making the browser window larger or smaller to optimize your viewing experience. Use your mouse to drag the bottom right corner of the browser window to change the size of the browser window.

If the video is blurry, make the browser window smaller until the video is clear. If the video is too small, click on the link to open the larger size video. This will take a bit longer to load.

You can leave the video window open after viewing in case you want to watch it again later. To return to the course, click anywhere in the visible browser window, or click on the tab that indicates the course, or click on the task bar tab at the bottom of the screen that indicates the course.



Introduction

Video – Be a Tree

Choose from the three video size options. The video is the same for all three. The larger the file, the higher the quality and the longer it will take to download.



[Small file \(dial-up\)](#)



[Medium file](#)



[Large file \(high speed\)](#)

Everyone needs to know how to be a tree!



Introduction

What will you learn?

- You will learn how to use clues to figure out how a dog might be feeling.
- These are divided into two broad categories:
 1. **Body language clues** – things that the dog does with his body parts that you can observe.
 2. **Environmental clues** - everything that is going on around the dog, including actions or presence of other animals or people, sounds, scents and the physical characteristics of the environment (toys, flooring, vacuum cleaner, good or scary objects etc).



Introduction

What will you learn?

In various places in the course we ascribe words to dog's thoughts in order to make our explanations clearer. We cannot know exactly what or how a dog is thinking, we can only know for sure what we observe the dog doing. This use of trainer metaphor should not be taken to imply that dogs think in human words or with human thoughts.



Life is good



My ball!
Stay away

1 sec later



Introduction

Why is this important?

- Almost half the population in the US and Canada has a dog in the family. You or your children will at some point encounter a dog at a friend's house or in some other way.
- If your work takes you to people's homes, then you will encounter other people's dogs. Some of these may be happy to see you, some may not.
- Happy dogs learn more easily, are less likely to bite and are less likely to develop behaviour problems.
- This lesson will teach you how to identify whether a dog is happy or is showing signs of stress and anxiety. This information will help keep you safe and keep your dog happy if you live or work with dogs.



Learning to Speak Dog Part 1

The body parts

- Here is a list of the body parts that dogs use to communicate.

- Mouth
- Ears
- Tail
- Eyes
- Paws
- Head
- Fur
- Overall posture

- We are going to focus on these one at a time, but be sure to look for what is going on with the other body parts as well as looking at the environment when trying to understand a dog.



Learning to Speak Dog Part 2

The mouth

- These are happy dogs – note the panting and overall soft, happy look.



Learning to Speak Dog Part 2

The mouth – about panting

- Here is a series of photos that show a sequence of events.
- What clues do you see?



Learning to Speak Dog Part 2

The mouth

■ Here are two photos of the same dog in two different circumstances. Do you think he feels differently in these two situations? What clues do you see?



Learning to Speak Dog Part 4

The tail – a video

Click on the link to watch two puppies interacting. The grey puppy interprets the high tail and advances of the black puppy as a challenge to her bone (which she stole from the black puppy in first place).



[Small file \(dial-up\)](#)



[Medium file](#)



[Large file \(high speed\)](#)



Learning to Speak Dog Part 6

The paws

- Betcha didn't know that dogs talk with their toes!
- This puppy is very defensive and worried about losing his bone.
- Notice how he is curling his toes into the floor. This is a subtle sign, but it indicates that he is ready to act.
- For comparison, here is a photo of relaxed paws. You can see that the nails are nowhere near the floor.



Learning to Speak Dog Part 9

Overall posture

- Here are adult dogs and puppies.
- The puppies are showing complete submission to the adult dogs.
- This is normal dog behaviour and it is best to leave them to sort things out without interference.



Please don't kill me, I'm a baby!

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More Examples

Same dog comparison



I'm calm



Please stop that



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Summary

Look for clues

- You have learned about many different types of clues that can help you decide whether a dog is feeling anxious or happy.
- These are divided into two broad categories:
 1. **Body language clues** – things that the dog does with his body parts that you can observe.
 2. **Environmental clues** - everything that is going on around the dog, including actions or presence of other animals or people, sounds, scents and the physical characteristics of the environment (toys, flooring, vacuum cleaner, good or scary objects etc).

