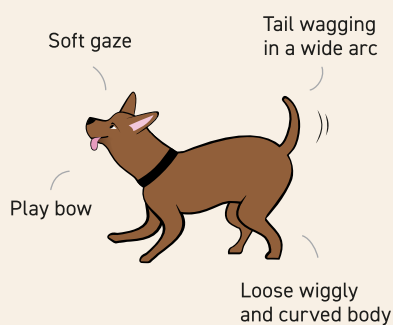


How to Understand and Approach a Pet Dog



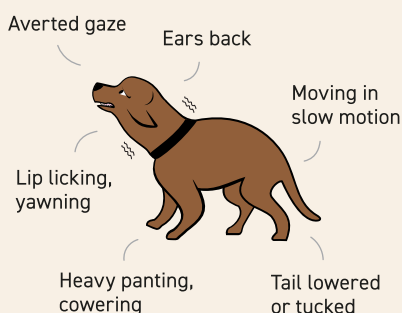
By observing a dog's body language, you can gather important information about what it is trying to communicate. Refer to the guide below to learn to read their body language.

Happy or relaxed



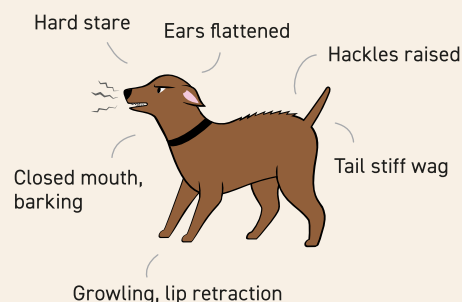
✓ Safe to approach with owner's consent

Fearful



✗ Do not approach

Threatened (may act aggressively)



With these in mind, let's explore what you can do to approach a dog safely and appropriately:

✓ Ask the owner for permission to approach their pet dog.

✓ Make yourself appear less threatening by getting down to the dog's level and turn your body sideways.

✓ Be observant of the dog's body language while interacting as the dog might suddenly become uncomfortable with the petting.



✓ Conduct a Petting Consent Test.

Gently stroke the dog on the side of the neck one to two times and withdraw your hand. If the dog approaches you for more contact, it has consented to the petting. If not, it does not want to be petted.

✓ Avert your gaze and stay relatively still, avoiding direct eye contact and making sudden movements.

✓ Allow the dog to approach and sniff you at its own pace instead of you approaching the dog.

Disclaimer: As not every dog behaves the same way, you are advised to react appropriately considering the circumstances.

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