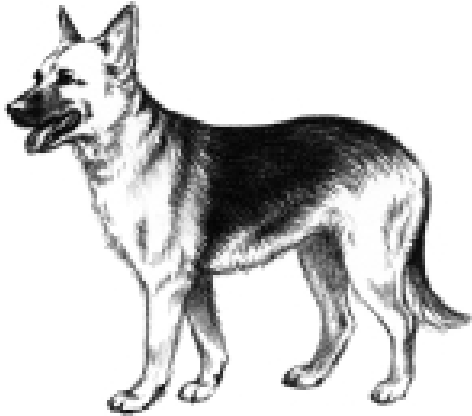


DOG BODY LANGUAGE – POSTURES

(images courtesy of the ASPCA)

Neutral, relaxed



Body: weight evenly distributed over all four feet, head erect

Eyes: average, neither wide nor squinty

Ears: up

Tail: relaxed, wagging

Mouth: relaxed, slightly open

Arousal



Body: stiff legged, weight over front legs

Eyes: large, hard staring

Ears: up, forward

Tail: up, bristled, stiff wag

Mouth: muzzle tense, lips lifted to display teeth

Aggressive Attack



Body: charging, weight forward; hackle may be up

Eyes: staring

Ears: erect, tilted forward

Tail: stiff, raised

Mouth: teeth bared, lips curled

Active Submission



Body: low, raised paw

Eyes: half closed, blinking

Ears: back

Tail: hanging low, slow wag

Mouth: nearly closed, tongue tip darts out

Passive Submission (the “Tap-Out”)



Body: on back, belly exposed; head turned away

Eyes: narrow, indirect gaze

Ears: back

Tail: tucked, release of urine droplets

Mouth: closed

Defensive Aggression



Body: posture mildly crouched, weight over rear legs, hackles may be up

Eyes: pupils dilated

Ears: back

Tail: down and tensed

Mouth: muzzle tense, wrinkled and snarling, teeth exposed, lips long