

Objective Terms to Describe Dog Behavior

Eyes

- Blinks
- Looks away
- Open wide
- Pupils dilated
- Relaxed
- Round
- Squints
- Stares
- Whale eye

Ears

- Back
- Forward
- Neutral
- Relaxed

Tail

- Broad, wide wags
- Held tight to body/tucked
- High, fast wags
- Low
- Neutral, at spine level
- Neutral, hanging
- Small wags, tail tip wags

Mouth

- Air snaps
- Bites or tries to bite
- Chatters
- Closed
- Closed, relaxed
- Corners of lips forward or back
- Licks lips
- Lifts lip
- Muzzle punches
- Open, relaxed
- Pants
- Pursed (short lips)
- Salivates
- Shows teeth
- Softly mouths
- Yawns

Vocalizations

- Barks (high pitch)
- Barks (low pitch)
- Groans
- Growls
- Howls
- Screams
- Whines

Movement

- Bounces
- Bows
- Flees
- Freezes
- Head whips
- Hides
- Jumps up
- Leans back, forward, or into
- Loose, relaxed, neutral
- Lowers body or head
- Lunges
- Moves away or toward
- Paces
- Piloerects (hair on spine raises)
- Pulls back or forward on leash
- Puts paws on
- Rubs against

