

# Reading Dog Body Language

**Dogs share a universal language**, some communicating better than others, with the fundamental goal of avoiding conflict. Most people would never purposefully threaten their dogs, yet many pet owners do this every day without recognizing that they are doing it. This happens because all humans don't know how to "speak dog". When we don't "hear" what our dogs are saying to us and respond appropriately to them, we often do things that increase their feelings of fear or anxiety. This can lead to an increase in the likelihood of offensive aggressive threats from the dog.

Developing your expertise in reading dog body language can serve many useful purposes when dealing with problem behavior in your dog. Recognizing the early, more subtle signs that dogs demonstrate when they are starting to be uncomfortable, allows you to intervene and calmly remove dogs from situations that can lead to worsening fear, anxiety and possibly aggression.

**Use the following websites to learn more about reading dog body language and to improve your ability to communicate with your dog.**



[spca.org/zoomroomdog](https://spca.org/zoomroomdog)



[spca.org/fearfreedog](https://spca.org/fearfreedog)



[spca.org/dogpetting](https://spca.org/dogpetting)



[spca.org/maddiescanine](https://spca.org/maddiescanine)

**To really improve your level of expertise you may also want to look at these more advanced videos:**



[spca.org/mctdog](https://spca.org/mctdog)



[spca.org/mctdog2](https://spca.org/mctdog2)

**If children are going to be around dogs, it is critically important that they learn to read these same visual cues, too. When children are bitten by dogs it is usually due to a failure to recognize that the dog was uncomfortable with the child. Check out these valuable web sites:**



[spca.org/stopthe77](https://spca.org/stopthe77)



[familypaws.com](https://familypaws.com)



[spca.org/ispeakdoggie](https://spca.org/ispeakdoggie)