

1

DOG Detective trail



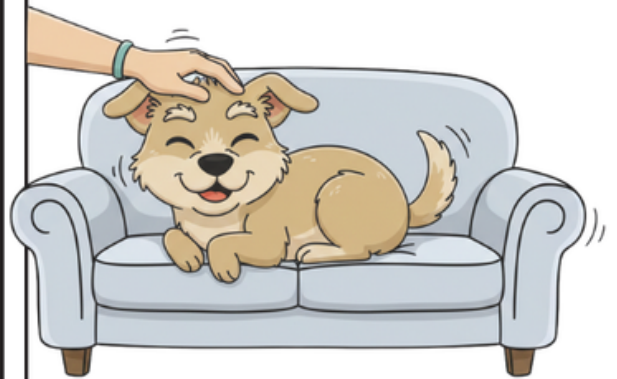
BONDING is about the special time you spend together, being patient and understanding.



Play Together

Playing in a sensible way, keeps everyone safe and helps you and your dog grow a trusting, happy bond.

© Woolf Wag



Chill Out Together

Relaxing quietly together helps you and your dog build trust and strengthens your special bond.

© Woolf Wag



Train Together

Training together teaches your dog new things and helps you both build trust and respect for one another.

© Woolf Wag



Be Active Together

Being active together, like going for walks, helps you and your dog stay healthy while growing your bond.

© Woolf Wag

2

DOG Detective trail



GOOD CITIZENSHIP is about looking after your dog's wellbeing, plus doing some of the yucky chores!



Poo Picking

Picking up after your dog keeps our outdoor areas clean so everyone can enjoy playing outside.

© Woolf Wag



Sleeping Spot

Giving your dog a cosy, quiet spot to sleep helps them feel safe and get the rest they need.

© Woolf Wag



Meal Times

Feeding your dog at the same times every day helps them stay healthy and feel settled in their routine.

© Woolf Wag



Watch the Signs

Watching for any changes in how your dog acts helps you notice quickly if they are unwell or need extra care.

© Woolf Wag

3

DOG Detective trail



GREETINGS are about knowing how your dog says hello, and is ready to interact with you and others!



Bum Sniffing

This is how dogs say hello and learn important information about one another, much like how humans introduce themselves by shaking hands or saying 'hello'. It is a completely natural and polite dog greeting, so it is best to let them sniff for a few seconds rather than pulling them away.

© Woolf Wag



Play Bow

The 'play bow', where a dog lowers their front end while keeping their rear in the air, is the universal invitation to play. It signals that the dog is friendly and wants to engage, effectively saying, 'I am just playing, no matter what I do next!'

© Woolf Wag



Excited & Interested

You will see a relaxed, loose posture, often with a gentle tail wag that involves their hips, soft eyes that blink frequently, and a slightly open mouth with the tongue lolling out. This is the classic picture of a dog feeling safe, content, and ready to engage with the world in a positive way.

© Woolf Wag



Nose Greeting

A quick polite nose sniff is often a brief interaction that allows the dogs to exchange information about where the other dog has been or what they have been doing. If your dog approaches another with a soft, wagging tail and a relaxed body, this is their way of saying a gentle 'hello'.

© Woolf Wag

4

DOG Detective trail



DOG SIGNALS are about understanding what your dog is telling you about how they feel.



Shake Off

A 'shake off' is when a dog vibrates their body from head to tail, this is their way of resetting themselves after excitement or stress. Think of it as a physical 'reset button' that helps them shake away any tension so they can feel calm again. This is often seen after meeting another dog or person.

© Woolf Wag



Yawning

When a dog yawns, they aren't always tired; it is often a sign that they are feeling a bit overwhelmed, stressed, or unsure about a situation. It is a subtle way for them to calm themselves down or tell others that they need a little more space. Think about allowing your dog a quiet break.

© Woolf Wag



Licking & Kissing

Licking or 'kissing' can mean two very different things. Pay attention to everything to stay safe.

Affection, if your dog's body is loose and relaxed, they are likely showing love.

Stress, if they are stiff, panting, or avoiding eye contact, they are using 'appeasement' to ask for space.

© Woolf Wag



Turning Head Away

When a dog turns their head away from you or another dog, they are using an 'appeasement' signal to lower tension. It is their way of saying, 'I am not a threat', or 'I would like some space, please'. If they do this, it is best to respect their wish and give them a little more room to feel comfortable.

© Woolf Wag

5

DOG Detective trail



DOG SIGNALS show many things like happiness and uncertainty, it is important to know the difference.



Playful & Relaxed

When a dog rolls onto their back with a loose body, a lolling tongue, and soft eyes, they are feeling relaxed and comfortable. This is a classic invitation to play or a sign that they will enjoy a belly rub. Unlike a 'submissive' roll, which often looks tense or stiff, and could mean that your dog doesn't want to be touched.

© Woolf Wag



Zoomies

These are a sudden burst of energy where your dog runs around frantically, often with their rear tucked and body loose. They are usually a sign of pure joy or a way to burn off pent-up energy. While it might look wild, your dog is typically just having fun. Just ensure they have enough room to do some safe zoomies!

© Woolf Wag



Sniffing

When a dog intently sniffs the ground during an interaction, they are often using it as a 'displacement behaviour' to calm themselves. If they aren't actually investigating a scent, they are likely feeling overwhelmed, avoiding eye contact, and asking for some space and a break.

© Woolf Wag



Paw Lift

A paw lift can be a sign of slight uncertainty or tension. The dog is literally "pausing" to assess a situation before deciding whether to move forward or retreat. It is a subtle hint that they are feeling a bit unsure and may need more space.

© Woolf Wag



DOG Detective trail



DOG SIGNALS can be extremely obvious or subtle. Get to know your dog so you can Speak Dog together.



Sneezing

Sneezing can be a 'displacement behaviour' when a dog feels stressed. It can be a way to calm themselves down when they feel uneasy. Always check the context: if the dog is loose and playful, the sneeze is likely friendly; if they are stiff or anxious in a busy environment, they might be stressed and need space.

© Woolf Wag



Cowering

Cowering, where a dog lowers their body, tucks their tail, and flattens their ears, indicates they feel fearful or overwhelmed. They may even move backwards. This is a clear signal that they feel threatened. Please move your dog away or give them space so they can feel safe again.

© Woolf Wag



Head Tilt

A head tilt often means your dog is listening intently, trying to understand a sound, or is simply curious. It is a sign of engagement and focused attention. It is a charming way they show they are processing what you are saying or doing.

© Woolf Wag



Worried Look

When a dog has a 'worried look', their brow is often furrowed, eyes look round with the whites visible (sometimes called 'whale eye'), and their mouth is tightly closed. This indicates they are feeling anxious or uncertain. It is a sign to stop what you are doing and give them space.

© Woolf Wag