

CALMING SIGNALS IN DOGS

The signals are used by both wolf and domesticated dog alike. They are used to prevent things from happening such as avoiding threats from people and dogs, calming down nervousness, fear, noise and unpleasant things. They are used for calming themselves when they feel stressed or to make others around them (both dog and human) feel safer and understand the goodwill the signals.



1. Turning of the head - This can be swift, turning the head to the side and back, or held to the side. This is a sign the dog is not comfortable. Examples of this are often seen: His head may turn if you stoop over him, or if another dog approaches him too fast, or if she finds a camera being pointed in her direction scary.



2. Turning away - Turning the side or back to someone is very calming. When dog's play and that game gets wild dogs will start turning their side or back, just to calm the game down a little. Your dog may use it if another dog acts threateningly, or growls at him. You can use it when a dog shows signs of nervousness or aggressiveness to you.



3. Licking Noses - A quick movement of the tongue, so quick it is often missed. Your dog may use it, along with other signals when approaching another dog, i



4. Yawning - The most intriguing of the signals, at least people seem to enjoy using it. Your dog may yawn when you visit the Vets, when you fight or quarrel in the family, when you hold your dog too tight, when a child comes up to hug him, and many other situations. You can use it when your dog feels uncertain, a little scared, stressed, worried or when you want him to calm down a bit.



5. Shaking off - Not to be confused with shaking off water after a rainstorm or bath, this calming signal is used quite often with dogs.