

DOG TRACKS





Keeping Warm This Winter

Just like us dogs can feel the winter chills. Some cold climate breeds such as Siberian Huskies, Bernese Mountain Dogs and Tibetan Terriers relish the cold weather and dream of

romping in the snow. Many dogs however shiver on bitterly cold days and like nothing more than to curl up in front of the fire.

Now is a good time to think about how your dog is going to react to the coming winter. Whilst Sydney has moderately mild winters the weather can certainly vary with very cold snaps and windy wet days.

Things to consider...

If your dog sleeps outside ensure that the kennel is snug and warm and protected from the wind. Outdoor beds should be raised off the ground and extra blankets provided. Self-heating pads and heated dog beds are also available.



Dogs that sleep indoors will always find a warm spot, but make sure their bed is out of drafts and extra blankets provided as nights can be very chilly.

Consider a dog coat, especially good for slender and short haired breeds such as Whippets, Miniature Pinschers and Staffordshire Bull Terriers which have problems maintaining their body heat. Coats are available for all size dogs, from inexpensive to the designer, whatever you choose your dog will thank you on those dreary winter days. For long haired breeds a raincoat is a good buy.

Going to the snow or very frosty areas ?
Then consider some dog boots, these
will keep your dog's feet dry and will
stop them slipping.



Grow a longer coat, many dogs, especially the Poodle cross breeds get
clipped down because of their coats matting. Be kind in the cold months
it will mean a lot more grooming but a much happier dog.

A large chamois leather cloth is a must to have on hand, literally sucks
the water out of wet feet and fur.

Be very careful with open fires, many a tale has been told about singed
tails, so always make sure the fire has a guard.

Watch the calorie intake, just like us less activity will result in a bigger
waist line.



Have a wonderful snugly warm winter.

DOG AND HUMAN COMMUNICATION

What is your dog is trying to communicate to you
and what are you communicating to your dog?

Being able to understand what your dog is trying to tell you and respond appropriately is important in building a strong relationship with your dog. If your dog can trust that you have the ability to read and react appropriately to their language it not only keeps you safe, it greatly enhances your relationship with your own dog, as well as others you may encounter.

At times you can find yourself in a potentially awkward situations, being crowded by other people with dogs on lead, off leash dogs approaching, passing other dogs on the street, park or training ground. It is essential that you can read your dog and do something if your dog is signalling that they are uncomfortable with the situation.

DOG BODY LANGUAGE

Dogs are primarily body language communicators. While they are certainly able to understand many of the words we speak to them, and capable of a range of vocalizations themselves - their first language is body talk.

People with very little experience with dogs can learn to “hear” what dogs are expressing with their ears, eyes, mouths, tails, and posture.

It's important to always look at the dog's whole body in addition to single body parts, paying particular attention to the dog's overall posture and movement.

While a dog's body language can tell us how they are feeling, we don't have the full picture without considering the context. What is going on? How is the dog's body language changing in relation to what is happening.

A dog's expressiveness is also dependent on their age, health, breed, physical type and unique past experiences. A puppy's communication style will be different from an adult dog. It is entirely normal for different dogs to respond differently to the same situation.

One good way to begin your canine language studies is to pay attention to the way your dog may use their body parts in varying ways to express different things.

TAIL COMMUNICATION

Tucked under: Appeasing, unsure, anxious or scared. The lower or more tucked-under the tail, the more anxious or fearful the dog is feeling

Low and still: Calm, relaxed

Low to medium carriage, gently waving: Relaxed, friendly

Low to medium carriage, fast wag: Appeasing or happy, friendly

High carriage, still/vibrating or fast wag: Tension, arousal, excitement; could be play arousal or aggression arousal (note that a wagging tail does not always mean a happy dog!)

The tail alone does not tell the whole story, particularly dogs with short or inflexible tails. Always look at the looseness or tightness of the dog's whole body within context.

EAR SIGNALS

Pinned back: (Ears are forced back flat against head) Scared, anxious, sad

Back and relaxed: Calm, relaxed, friendly

Forward and relaxed: Aware, interested, attentive, friendly

Pricked forward: Alert, excitement, arousal, assertive; could be play arousal or aggression arousal

EYE EXPRESSIONS

Averted, no eye contact: Appeasing, deferent or fearful (avoidance); may be a subtle flick of the eyes, or may turn entire head away

Squinting or blinking: Uncomfortable when something or someone is too intense.

Soft eyes: (Relaxed ears, mouth and body) Happy, peaceful, non-confrontational, friendly

Eyes open wide: Confident, assertive

Hard stare: (Sustained direct eye contact, forward ears, tight mouth, stillness or stiffness) Alert, excitement, arousal; could be play arousal or aggression arousal

MOUTH EXPRESSIONS

Lips pulled back: Appeasing or fearful (may also be lifted in "submissive grin" or "aggressive grin")

Licking lips, yawning: Stressed, fearful, or tired

Lips relaxed: Calm, friendly

Lips puckered forward, may be lifted (snarl): Assertive, threat

BODY POSTURE

Behind vertical, lowered; hackles may be raised: Appeasing or fearful

Vertical, full height: Confident, relaxed

Ahead of vertical, standing tall; hackles may be raised: Assertive, alert, excitement, arousal, possibly play arousal or aggressive arousal

Shoulders lowered; hindquarters elevated: A play bow – clear invitation to play; dog sending a message that behaviour that might otherwise look like aggression is intended in play.

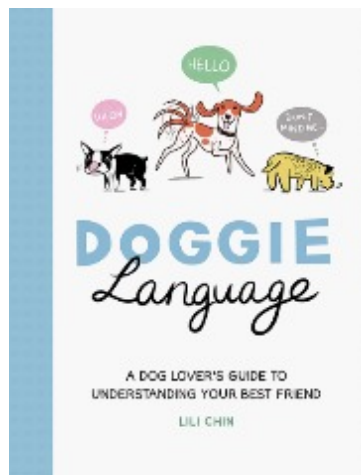
IN SUMMARY

Note that many of the body language communications can have multiple meanings. The actual intent is determined by looking at the whole picture. A dog with her ears pricked forward and hackles raised accompanying a play bow is sending an entirely different message from the one with her ears pricked forward, hackles raised, standing tall and ahead of the vertical, giving a hard stare.

Once you're good at reading canine body language, in a crisis, you will be able to quickly see the whole picture and respond appropriately, without having to take the time to analyse individual body parts.

In less urgent times, make a point of observing dog body language communications more thoughtfully, and respond appropriately – by greeting dogs who are clearly inviting interactions, and helping a dog who may show subtle signs of discomfort by not invading her comfort zone.

An excellent book to more completely understand a dog's body language is *Doggie Language* by Lili Chin. Available in hard copy or eBook online.



Your dog is speaking to you all the time.

Remember to listen with your eyes.

HUMAN BODY LANGUAGE

Your ability to communicate appropriately back to your dog is every bit as important as your ability to read her communications. Making direct eye contact, bending forward from the waist, and reaching over the top of the head are some of the most common body language mistakes humans make with dogs.

Here are more appropriate ways to communicate your friendly intentions to the dog in front of you:

EYE CONTACT

In a dog's world, direct eye contact is a challenge or a threat, while looking away is a sign of deference, appeasement, or respect. If you make direct eye contact with a dog and see signs of appeasement, fear, deference, or defensive or offensive aggression, you know this is a dog who is not comfortable with direct eye contact.

That said, we make it a point to teach our own dogs that direct eye contact with a human is a highly rewarded behaviour. Dog trainers from coast to coast go to great lengths to reinforce their dogs for making and maintaining eye contact.

When approaching a dog, you don't know, or if your own dog seems wary of when you when you approach her, try looking off to the side or over her head instead of directly into her eyes. If she seems comfortable, try making brief, soft eye contact and see how she reacts. If her body language stays soft and she continues to approach you, she is probably comfortable with at least some eye contact. Take it slow.

HANDS

If you want to make a good impression on the canines you meet, you might do best not to reach out at all. Rather, allow the dog to offer the first contact with you.

If you must reach toward a dog, offer your open hand, palm up, below her chin level, and let her reach forward to sniff. If she invites closer contact, try scratching gently under her chin or behind her ear – most dogs love that. Watch her response; she may not like touch, or she may not yet be ready for that much intimacy from a stranger. If she pulls away or shows signs of fear, appeasement, avoidance, or aggression, respect her message and stop trying to touch her.

HUGS

Lots of dogs do not enjoy our demonstrative nature of hugging. There are dogs who invite hugs and snuggles, but they are the exception, not the rule.

Never try to hug a dog you don't know (and don't let your children do it, either!).

If you are in the habit of hugging (or allowing your children to hug) your own dog, video some hugs in action and take a good hard look at her body language. If your dog leans into the hugs with a relaxed body and soft expression, you're on solid ground. In contrast, if you see your dog ducking, looking away, leaning away, tensing up, or offering other avoidance signals, you might want to rethink your hugging program.

If your dog really doesn't enjoy being hugged and your children really want to hug them, give them a toy dog to hug.

BODY ORIENTATION

To a dog, a face-front direct approach along with direct eye contact screams, "Threat!" Equally offensive to many dogs is the human habit of bending or hovering over a dog. The best way say hello to a new canine friend is to stand on knee sideways while avoiding eye contact, and either keeping your hands close to your body or offering an open hand low to the ground.

The more wary of you the dog appears, the more important it is for you to turn sideways and make yourself small and non-threatening. Of course, if you're greeting an enthusiastic Labrador Retriever who is happily trying to body-slam you at the end of his leash, you're probably safe to stand up and face front. But, still, no hugs, head-pats, or hovering.

MOVEMENT

Dogs, especially dogs who aren't completely comfortable with humans, are very sensitive to our movement. Fast, sudden, and erratic movements can be alarming, especially if they are combined with direct eye contact and inappropriate hand-reaching. Slow, calm movement – or in some case no movement at all – is a better approach with a dog you don't know.

You are your dogs advocate make sure you are listening to what they are telling you and respond appropriately. Do not allow anyone to do anything or tell you to do something that either you or your dog are uncomfortable with.

Compiled from the following resources - Pat Miller – Listening to your dog's body signals; Lili Chin - Doggie Language; Pooch Professionals

Alex Surplice



TREAT SHEET

Our dogs love treats and we like giving our dogs treats, whether as a reward when training or just because we know how much they enjoy them.



But what sort of treats are we giving our dogs? Homemade ones are the best and you can find a whole range of yummy things under recipes on the club website.

But what about the chewy ones like pig's ears?, these you obviously have to buy. The most important thing with any bought treat is to check the country of origin and unless they are Australian made put them back on the shelf.



My dogs love things they can chew on and I only have to call out "Would you like a chewy?" and they appear in seconds. These types of treats can keep them occupied for ages and they are great for keeping the teeth clean.



I discovered Clear Dog Treats many years ago and they are my go to place for all things dog treats. Australian made, top quality and the range is huge, I never realised how many different parts could be made into amazing tasty chews. My dogs are beside themselves when the Clear Dog order arrives and, as well as their favourites, I always try to include something they haven't had before.



Clear Dog Treats include Beef, Chicken, Fish, Goat, Kangaroo, Lamb, Pork and Venison in an amazing array of options. My dogs adore the Kangaroo Teeth Cleaners and Leg Bones, Fish Twisters and of course Pig Snouts and Ears.



Check out their website I know you won't be disappointed.
www.cleardog.com.au

Wendy Jones



Hypoallergenic Dog Treats

Chicken Biscuits



- 1 ¼ x Cups Rice Flour
- 3 x Tbsp Vegetable or Canola Oil
- ½ x Teas Salt
- ⅓ x Cup Chicken Broth

Preheat oven to 165°.

Mix all ingredients in a bowl, should be the consistency of play dough, you may need to add an additional 1-2 tablespoons of liquid to get the right consistency.

Knead the dough until smooth, roll out on a lightly floured surface to ½ cm.

Cut out shapes with a cookie cutter or make rectangles with a knife or pizza wheel.

Place on a baking sheet and bake at 165° for 15-20 minutes until just slightly browned on the bottoms.

Let cool and store in an airtight container.



Banana Cookies



- 1 x Ripe Banana
- 2 x Tbsp Coconut Oil
- 1 x Cup Oatmeal

In a bowl mix ingredients until thoroughly combined.

Set aside and let sit 10 minutes.

Preheat your oven to 180°

Take 1 tablespoon of the mixture and form it into a ball.

Place on a lightly greased baking sheet and flatten slightly.

Bake at 180° until browned on the bottoms, about 15 minutes, remove and let cool.

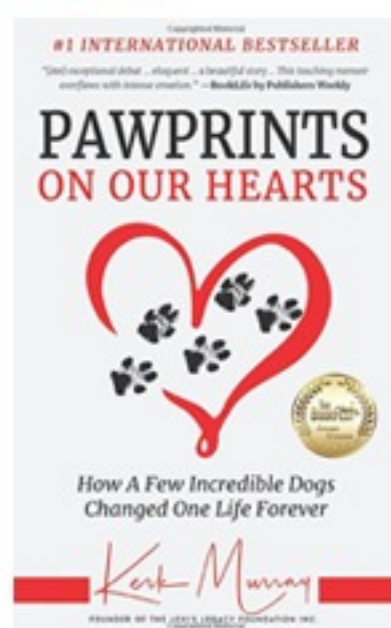
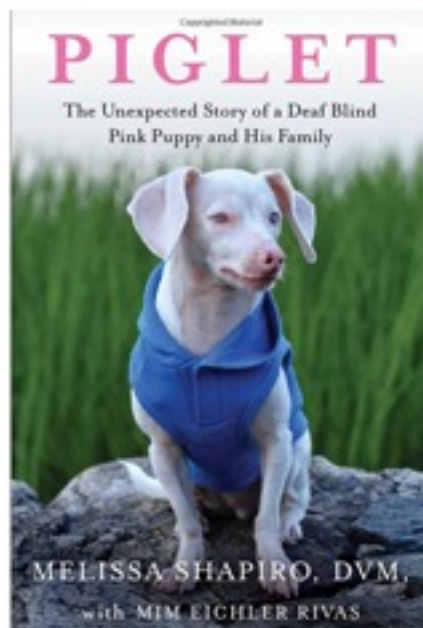
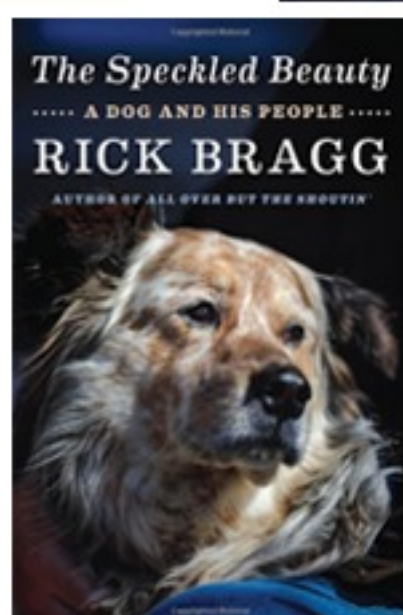
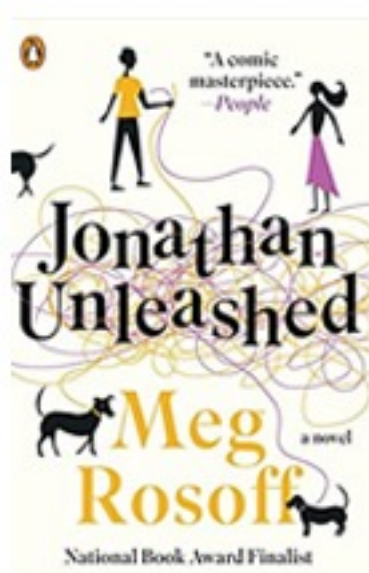
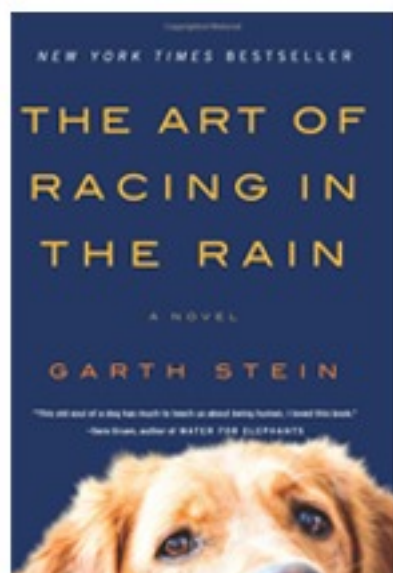
Store in an airtight container.

Hypoallergenic

Ideal for dogs with sensitive stomachs or just plain yummy treats for everyone.



Curl Up with a Good Book This Winter



Editor Wendy Jones

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