

Ask the Trainer: How Well Do You Speak “Dog”?



Humans are fortunate to have a communication system that allows us to clearly state our point in a variety of ways. We can use intonation and inflection in our voice to make one statement mean different things. For example, you can say “oh really?” with wide eyes and in a breathy tone to mean you are surprised. Take those same two words “oh really?” and say it with a raised eyebrow and a flat tone to mean you are not impressed.

A dog's particular body language can also have a dual meaning. But instead of listening to intonation or inflection, we must look at the context and other body language signals to understand the true meaning. Here are some common examples.

When Dogs Show their Belly -

What we often think it means: I want pets!

When this is true:

Many dogs do show their belly to elicit attention and physical touch. This is true when, In addition to showing their belly, a dog will be wiggly, have an open mouth, look at you with squinty eyes and may make soft “huffy” sounds. This is when they want pets, so go ahead!

When it means something else:

Especially the first time a dog meets a person or another dog, showing their belly could mean “I’m a little uncomfortable and I need space”. When their body is still, their mouth is closed, and they are looking away

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THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING OF DOGS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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About Speaking of Dogs

Speaking of Dogs Rescue Program is a Canadian registered charity established in the Greater Toronto area (with foster homes across Ontario). Launched in 2001, we are a foster-based, all breed rescue with a focus on senior dogs. We are run solely by volunteers with a mission to help homeless dogs in need by providing shelter or sanctuary, necessary medical care, adoption and education.

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Newsletters

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from you, or repeatedly licking their nose or lips, this may also signal a need for space. In that case, give them some space and allow them to approach on their own terms.

Wagging Tail – What we often think it means: I'm happy!

When this is true:

If the tail is moving side to side or even in a spinning motion in addition to a wiggly body, an open mouth, squinty eyes and/or curving their bodies, this means they are happy.

When it means something else:

If the dog's tail is wagging upright and stiffly like a flag, the rest of the dog's body is stiff and they are staring directly at the person or dog approaching, I would give this dog some space. They could be over excited or unsure about this approach and it could turn into a snarl and a lunge to ask for space.

When a dog jumps and bites at the leash – We often think the dog wants to play.

When this is true:

If you have just leashed up your dog after a play session, then they probably want to continue. Also, if the dog's body language is wiggly and they let go when asked and then come back again, perhaps with a play bow, they are looking to play.



When it means something else:

If your dog starts to jump and bite at the leash out of nowhere on a walk, his body is stiff and he is unable to respond to you, your dog may be anxious or frustrated. I often see this happening when a dog is overwhelmed and needs a moment to process what is going on around them. This is very common for rescues that may have seen or heard "triggers", or things that they don't understand or may perceive as threats - such as loud trucks, other dogs, strollers, etc. In this case, they need time to calm down before moving forward. Scattering treats works well to help them calm down and then waiting a few minutes while they shake it off (like they are wet) before moving on. If the behaviour continues, it's time to go home.

When your dog humps – we often think they are being controlling.

When it's true:

Dogs will mount for various reasons - sexual, to control a dog or to

provoke a reaction. This tends to happen when they are young and learning "social graces", but it can become a habit. Again, the body language is key. Direct eye contact, stiff bodies, unrelentless attention to a particular dog or person, lip curling and growling are signs that you want to watch out for and avoid this type of humping.

When it means something else:

Dogs will hump other dogs, people and/or things like pillows and stuffed animals to help relieve stress because they don't know what to do in the situation or because they are



over-excited. Dogs who exhibit this behavior are normally very excited before it happens, tend to pant a lot, aren't looking directly at the person/dog/item they are humping and have a hard time calming down when removed. Take note of these situations and work with a trainer to help your dog to calm down during these situations or to manage them.

...continued on page 3

thank
you! ♥

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you to our supporters, foster parents,
volunteers and adopters

We are honoured and grateful for all of your
ongoing, incredible efforts in helping us
help dogs in need



When your dog yawns – we often think they are tired.

When it's true:

If your dog is settling in for a snooze or just got up from a snooze, then it is probably a regular yawn. The yawn looks very relaxed, and a stretch may follow.

When it means something else:

Dogs also yawn because they are a little stressed or frustrated. This type of yawn happens when they are not

tired, usually looks quite forced and not relaxed and the dog will look away from you. Take note of when your dog yawns when you are out on a walk, in your home, when you have guests over, etc. You will find that there is a pattern, and you will learn what things might stress or frustrate your dog. It could be people getting too close to them, when you go in a direction they don't want to go or when an excitable dog is near by. They may need a bit of space or just want to get going. Observing your dog and learning these subtle signs of communication will give you a deeper understanding of your dog's state of mind, as well as when and how they are trying to communicate with you. These are just a few examples, there are many, many more - so if you would like to learn more, here are a few good resources:

App: The Dog Decoder

Book: On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals by Turid Rugaas
Website: www.educanine.org for courses and a webinar



Andrea Dinan, CPDT-KA, LFDM-T, FFCT

In addition to the certifications above, Andrea is certified through the Karen Pryor Foundations and Kids Around Dogs, and she has also taken the Masters Course in Dog Aggression through AggressiveDog.com. She is the founder of EduCanine and City Dogs Training & Behavior and also created "The Rescue Plan."

Adoption Update

To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue

From: Allison

Subject: Moose

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

There was some adjustment in the beginning. He had stranger-danger and was reactive to dogs and joggers/cyclists, but we worked hard with him for the first 6 months, and he gradually learned that he's here to stay and has made friends. He loved the fall weather and, during the day, he loved to nap on a bed we put on the patio.

As he's having some mobility challenges as he ages, we've blocked off the stairs, but he's happy



MOOSE

settling onto the couch or on one of his beds on the ground floor. He gets along with our other dog - they are active together.

He is doing very well and is in great health, aside from a fatty lipoma on his leg and, although he is a bit slower, he still loves his walks



- just at a slower pace. He is a joy for us and we love him - he is our baby.

Another great match,

ALLISON +
MOOSE 

Dogs Looking for Homes

A friend in need is a friend indeed

Without a doubt, a dog is a real friend. Our dogs come in all shapes and sizes, but they have one thing in common they all need loving forever homes. Open your heart and your home to a rescue dog. You'll be glad you did. For complete information about the adoption process, please visit www.speakingofdogs.com/adoption-process. For more information on each dog, simply click on their name.

Meet our February feature dog

Prince



Every bit the charmer his name implies, this handsome fellow is a 4-year-old Maltese Poodle cross. Black with white spots on his chest and chin, and weighing in at 15lbs, Prince is neutered and up to date with all his vetting and shots. Like many dogs, Prince is initially a bit timid when it comes to meeting new people, he prefers to have the time he needs to trust and warm up to strangers, and once he does, he is an incredibly cuddly and affectionate little companion.

Prince is buddy's with his teenage human foster sibling and prefers to be in the company of teens/adults, he would also prefer to be an only dog. He is not destructive when left home alone, he barks briefly and then settles down. He also does well travelling

in the car, as long as he is secured. Prince has no issues when it comes to physical handling or grooming, and has even had pedicures from his foster family, having his nails clipped without issue.

This little gentleman enjoys dry kibble for dinner, and, with positive reinforcement, is making great progress on his resource

guarding of human food. He has basic training and knows the "sit" command. Prince has a medium energy level and enjoys living indoors, he does however enjoy the fresh outdoor air on his leashed walks, which he does well.

Prince is looking for a loving forever family, who will be patient and willing to give him all the time he needs to warm up to them



Freddie

Poodle (Standard) / Labrador Retriever, Male



Hubert

Maltese / Poodle (Toy) / Mixed (short coat), Senior Male



Paddy

Poodle (Miniature) (short coat) Mixed (short coat), Male



Alfie

Poodle (Miniature) (short coat)
Male



Alvin

Poodle (Miniature) (short coat)
Male



Benny

Poodle (Miniature) (short coat)
Male



Reggie

Catahoula Leopard Dog / Mixed
(short coat), Male



Cleo

Cocker Spaniel / Beagle / Mixed
(medium coat), Female



Crystal

Pomeranian / Mixed (long coat)
Female



Marmalade

Golden Retriever / Poodle (Miniature)
/Mixed (medium coat), Young Female



Eddie

Husky / Hound / Mixed
(medium coat), Male



Flower

Labrador Retriever / American Bulldog
(short coat), Female

Happy Tails

RECENT ADOPTIONS:

A big thank you to our foster parents and our new adoptive guardians for helping give these loving dogs a second chance.



Bijou



Billie



Coco



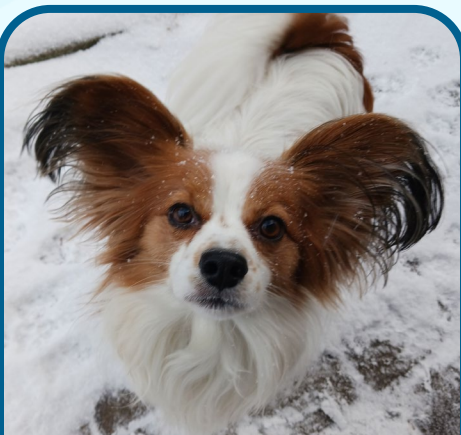
Deacon



Tooca



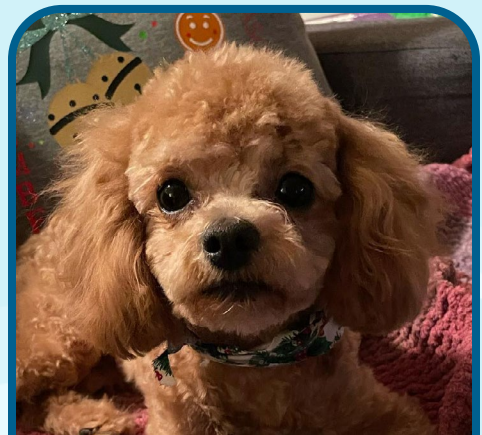
Ginger Snap



Gizmo



Icy



Lucky



Montana



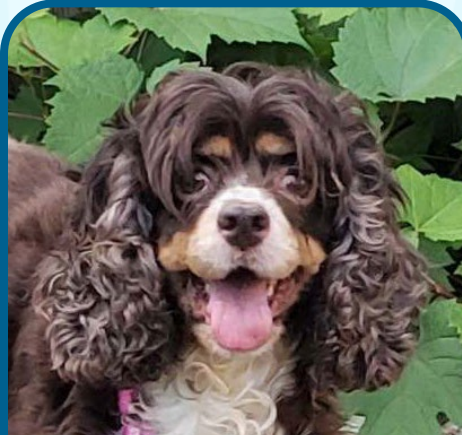
Ripley



Russ



Timmy



Yumi

WAGS & WIGGLES

A **HUGE** Thank you to everyone who donated to **BETTY WHITE day**, & **Helping Homeless Pets** for matching the donations of that day



CAN YOU LEND A PAW



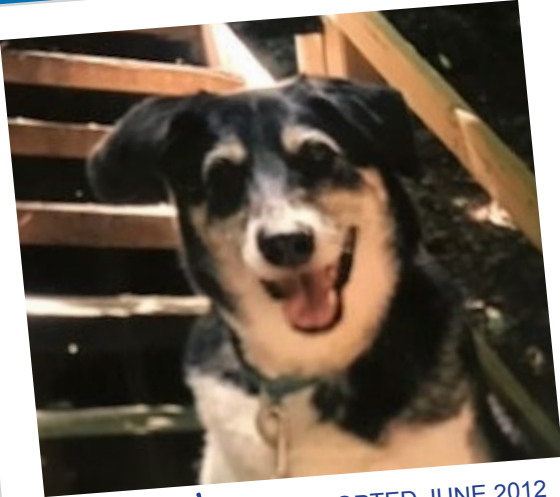
Speaking of Dogs Rescue benefits from:

- 🐾 People walking and using the [ResQwalk](#) app with Speaking of Dogs Rescue as the selected rescue
- 🐾 People purchasing gift certificates from **FundScrip**. Go to FundScrip using [our link](#)
- 🐾 **BarkBox** sales - use code SPEAKING OF DOGS at checkout and the rescue will receive a \$15 donation from BarkBox. Plus, you will receive 10% off your subscription!
- 🐾 **Gifted** - is an online invitation, RSVP management, cash registry and fundraising platform that allows hosts to donate any portion of their cash gifts to a charity of their choice. Speaking of Dogs Rescue can now be chosen as the charity that will benefit from a GIFTED party

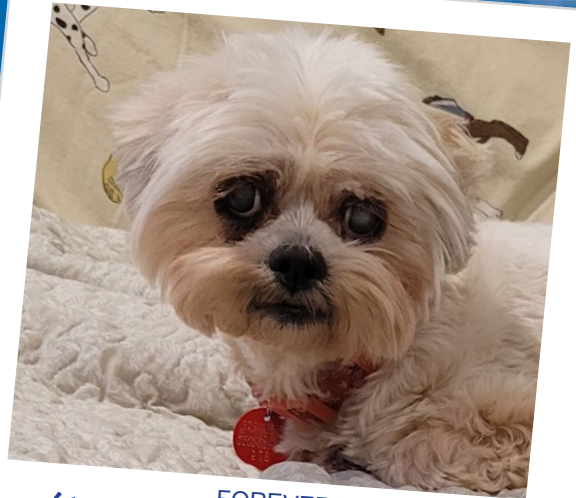


Visit our donation webpage by scanning our QRC Code

In Memoriam



Rupert
(aka Alfie) ADOPTED JUNE 2012
LOVED BY BARBARA & SARAH



Mika FOREVER IN FOSTER
LOVED BY ALL AT SPEAKING OF
DOGS RESCUE



Trudy ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2017
LOVED BY SHARON SWENSON
& FAMILY



Prinny FOREVER IN FOSTER
LOVED BY TED & ANNE MARIE