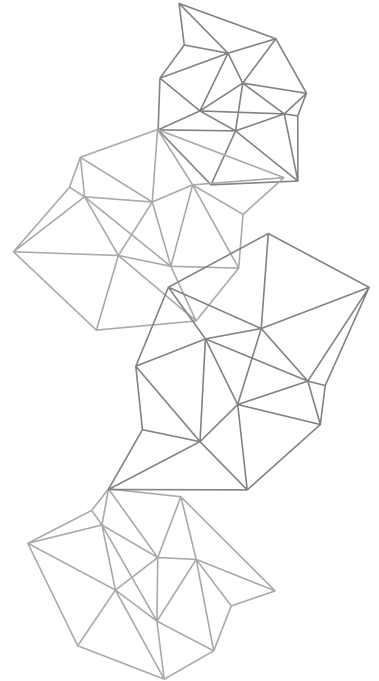


Pro-Social Behaviours

How can you tell if a dog wants to get close to another dog? Look for what's called pro-social (A.K.A. "friendly") behavior:
The dog approaches with a combination of these:

- Wags tail
- Has loose, often wiggly, body movements
- Has a loose face with relaxed mouth and ears
- Curves around to sniff butt vs straight to face
- Does freeze for more than 3 seconds
- Isn't pushy with sniffing
- Turns head away to avoid hard staring
- Is slow with their approach
- Shows flexibility in body



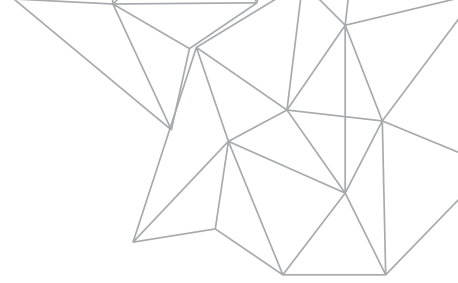
The absence of these friendly signals should be seen as a red flag. The dog might be trying to figure out if he feels comfortable; he might be okay around the other dog, but only from a certain distance away; or he might simply prefer to be left to his own business.

Cut Off Signals

Polite Ways your Dog is Defusing any Conflict

- Sniffing the ground
 - Turning Away
 - Yawning
 - Giving Space to the Dog
 - Leaving the Area
 - Licking lips
-

Playing or Fighting?



1 What is the Dog Doing?

One reason dogs play is to practice important behaviors in their lives: fighting, fleeing, feeding, and courting. This means that when they play, they do things such as pretending to fight, chasing each other around, and, yes, even humping.

But, if you looked at a snapshot of two dogs playing, without any other context, you likely couldn't tell if they were playing or fighting. So we have to dig deeper for more clues.

2 What is the Body Language?

We're looking for the **three play indicators**:

- 1. Self-handicapping** — Are they pulling their punches or fake biting? They keep their mouths open when they "bite," and they are faking body slamming like in a WWE ring.
- 2. Role reversals** — Are they switching up? One chases and then he gets chased. One is on top, and then he's on the bottom. One "bites," and then he gets "bitten."
- 3. Meta-signals** — Play bow? Play-face? Yes! Running with a bouncy gait? Side body posture vs forward and pushy?

2 What is the Answer?

If they are showing appropriate social skills, allow them to play for 30 seconds before ensuring both dogs take a break to catch their breath. After the break see if both parties are interested in playing before you allow them to go again.

If you don't see self-handicapping, role reversals, or meta-signals, it's a good idea to give them a break and see if both parties are still interested in engaging. If they aren't they it's time to end the play.

Contact your trainer if you are ever unsure! We have lots of classes and experience in this topic!
