

🐾 Communication

Communication is a specific language to express emotions and needs in using vocal sounds and body language cleverly. It means "to be in relation with".

🐾 Dog's language

Dogs use different ways to express themselves like :

Distance signals to keep someone away

- Showing teeth
- Growling
- Barking...

Calming signals

- Licking nose
- Yawning
- turning away the head...

Body language to express fear or defense

- Tail between the legs
- Moving back, crouching
- Taking flight...

With of course stress symptoms like :

- Peeing
- Scratching
- Shaking...

Signs of joy

- Wagging tail, or all the body
- Licking
- Jumping
- Showing a happy face...

And there are the sounds dogs make as :

- Whining (used by the puppies)
- Howling (to respond to other dogs)...



🐾 Barking to communicate

Body language and barking are very important for the dogs. It is in this way they communicate between them and with humans.



When a dog is barking, many people think :

- he is aggressive, dominant, he is doing it deliberately to irritate us...
- It's his usual behavior...

They expect to calm down the dog by shouting and punishing him. But instead of that, they increase barking. Worst of all, if he complies with demand when they yell at him, he becomes fearful of his owner, is afraid of being alone, or develops eating or health problems.

To stop the dog from barking has a disaster effect on his health and behavior.

Barking is used to express a wide variety of emotions and gives us information about the situation they are facing.

"Nobody would think of punishing a cat who is miaowing, or a horse who is whinnying ...(for thought)

... but many people think their dog is not allowed to bark or to growl...

Growling is communication !

A dog who is growling is a dog who is communicating a discomfort. If you punish him for that, he will understand he has to stop warning you and the next time he will move directly to the next step....biting !

- ☞ We must **understand and accept** that the dog has his own language.
- ☞ We must **learn to listen** what the dog tries to tell us

Barking is a normal behavior for the dogs

- 🐾 **Here are the different types of barking :**

Excitement barking

- The dog is excited and happy...
- 💡 **What can you do ?**
- Be quiet
- Give him his favorite toy in his mouth
- Ask him to go and get something...

Warning barking

- Somebody is ringing at the door
- He has seen or heard something...
- 💡 **What can you do ?**
- Stay calm, without watching him nor speaking to him
- Go and stand between the dog and the noise source
- Make him understand you got the message
- Make the hand signal...(*)

Fear barking

- He is stuck and cannot get out of the situation, he really needs help
- He has been abused and terrified
- He is so scared
- 💡 **What can you do ?**
- Take him off the situation where he is stuck
- Do not expose him in front of an alarming situation
- Put the dog's mind at rest, in staying with him, without shouting on him

Guard barking

- Somebody who is coming
- The dog is stuck and can't move away (tied, in vari kennel, cage, in a corner, etc...)...
- 💡 **What can you do ?**
- Recognize the calming signals to prevent his reaction
- May be you have to change your own behavior

Guard barking... (cont'd)

- Go and stand between the dog and the object he reacts to
- Set him free, break loose...

Frustration barking

- The dog is under pressure, for a long time and he can't see how to come through
- He is completely left to himself
- He gets extremely stressed

...there is the one who barks (and the one who gets depressed, he has given up)...

What can you do ?

- Take him with you, in the house
- Give him something to do
- Take the dog for a walk
- Take him by car with you

Learned barking ...well yes...

You gave him attention at the wrong time and in the wrong way, and taught the dog to bark like :

- The dog barks at a car passing, you jerk on the leash and you say " NO !"
- The dog is alone in the garden and barks at someone passing, you open the window and ask the dog " Stop it !"
- A tight leash, to talk to him, to distract his attention, everything teach him to bark

What can you do ?

- Don't let him alone in the garden during a short period,
- Don't stand a long time chatting with anyone
- If he barks, don't say anything, just do the hand signal (*)

Sounds are parts of the dog's natural language. It is very important to understand the reason why the dog barks to be able to choose the right strategies to change it.

*Watch your dog, look at which situation he is in....
A dog doesn't lie, he is very serious when he is telling us something...*



(*) There are natural techniques to calm the dog when he is worried. For example, you can use the hand signal, and place yourself between the "threat" and the dog to reassure him there is nothing to fear, as you would say : ok ! don't worry, I'm taking care of it ! (See photo below).



Warning!

Should never be used !

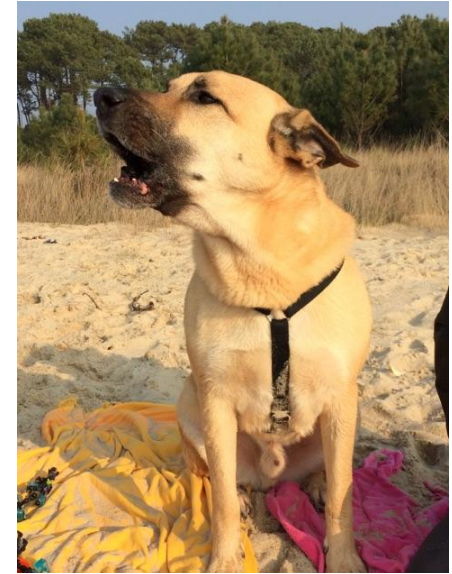
The anti-bark collar which sends electric shocks, capable of triggering anxiety disorder, depressive disorder, which could result in inhibition, aggressiveness etc...

As well as the spray control bark collar which delivers squirts of citronella gas .

These methods do not teach anything to the dog, but increase his frustration, his inhibition...

WOOF !

Based on Turid Rugaas's books "Barking"
and " On Talking Terms With Dogs: Calming Signals"
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Sylvie Dietrich juin 2016
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Do not prevent dogs from barking

They are talking to you !

