

WVESA Newsletter

February 2014

Your Dogs Native Tongue

By Susan Claire, CPDT-KA

If you own a dog, then you teach English as a second language. A dog's native tongue is body language. Yet, dogs adapt and learn our English words with remarkable ability. There are many emotions that we share with our canine friends, and some that we project onto them. It's in our best interest to learn about how our dogs really think and feel and learn. If you insist your dog learn your language, then it's only fair you make the effort to learn his. This will facilitate mutual understanding and communication.

The Myths of Spite & Guilt

Humans love to attribute these two motives to dogs. In reality, dogs experience neither guilt nor spite. When returning from a hard day's work, you might get annoyed walking into a foul-smelling house and finding a cold pile on the floor. Perhaps you yell at the dog and punish him by rubbing his nose in it. Or maybe you're more evolved than that, and just scowl, sigh,

and complain loudly as you clean it up. Either way, your dog knows you are angry and it's scaring him. He has no idea why, however, because he had that potty accident hours ago. And he did it simply because he had to go and no one was there to let him out. That's it- no ulterior motive. How very silly to imagine dogs would use their urine and feces to make a point, or "spite" us. Really, what species does that? Oh, that's right, primates do.. (ever been to the zoo?) Luckily for us, dogs are not spiteful, as they'd have all day to plan their revenge- and I imagine it would be far worse than a little potty accident on the floor!

Thankfully, canines are far more innocuous than that. Dogs make connections between actions and immediate consequences. So when you walk through the door and act out in anger, your dog learns that you are scary and unpredictable when you come through the door. If this happens often enough, you will start to

come home and see your dog crouching, slinking, ears back, hesitant to approach and you will mistakenly read his fearful, deferential body language as guilt. He is displaying this body language not because he "knows he did something wrong" but because he's made the association between your entry and your tirades. He simply cannot put the potty accident together with your displeasure unless you interrupt him in the act. In this situation, the use of a crate or a pet sitter will work wonders for improving your relationship.

Come Closer/Go Away!

Dogs, like humans, have personal space. They clearly invite others into, or request them out of, their personal space. Canines are usually adept at reading and heeding those signals; humans, not so much. A wagging tail does not tell the whole story.

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A big, loopy wagging tail on a wiggling body with a relaxed face and open mouth indicates a happy dog. A tightly wagging tail on a stiff body, with a closed mouth and large eyes is a warning to back off. Putting the wagging tail into context with the other body signals gives a clearer picture of the dog's emotional state.

You may encounter a dog who doesn't particularly like or trust people and I'm sure he has his reasons. But you don't want to be the one to pay the price. Dogs have teeth and they know how to use them. Fortunately, they give lots of warning before they take such drastic measures. Rarely do they "attack out of nowhere," as some primates have claimed. Experts agree that 90% of aggression comes from fear. This applies to aggression toward either species. So, understanding when a dog is scared gives us time to remove our dogs or ourselves from the situation before it escalates.

You may think, "dogs love me," but don't push the issue with a dog who is backing away, tail down, ears flat, wide eyes with the whites showing, tense facial muscles pulled into a grimace—these are all indications of intense fear. This dog is telling you in the only way he knows how he is not comfortable, and needs space. Ignoring these signals can lead to a dog feeling trapped or threatened. And that's what their teeth are for.

Some dogs love people, but have a bone to pick with members of their own species. A stiff, still, forward-leaning body, a hard stare and a closed mouth is a dead giveaway that the canine in question is focusing on something he is not comfortable with.

Two dogs face-to-face in this posture almost always escalate to aggression. If your dog is in this posture, and on a leash, your body language will inform his, so don't tense up or speak frantically. Disengage him by calmly asking him to do something else like "watch me," or "let's go," and then praising him and quickly walking away.

A friendly, well-socialized dog welcomes interaction. A typical canine will signal with his body that he can't wait to meet you. An approach that says "pet me please" looks like this: soft relaxed eyes, open panting mouth, a body that curves toward the object of social interest. Touching, leaning, eye contact, even jumping up, says, "look at me, touch me, play with me!" What dog lover can resist that kind of invitation? But here's where we sometimes get carried away. Humans, being primates, want to hug, squeeze and kiss the object of our affection. When we do this, it gives us great pleasure. But if we could see our dogs objectively, we would know from their body language that these same actions make them very uncomfortable. A dog might let you know this by turning his head and eyes away from you, and flicking his tongue in and out of his closed mouth. He might yawn or sniff the floor, or do the shake off. These signals indicate mild stress or discomfort and are sometimes referred to as "calming signals," as your human expressions of affection seem a bit forward and rude to him. Most of us do it anyway and our own dogs seem to know it's love, but instinctively, it still intimidates them. So, lighten up! Throw your dog a ball, give him a quick massage, get down on the floor and invite him to play by doing a play bow! Now you're speaking his language!

Future Meetings

February Meeting

The meeting is on February 22nd at 3:00 p.m. at Cascade Grill in Albany.

The Cascade Grill is located adjacent to the Linn Co Fairgrounds between the 2 motels at 110 Opal St NE. Phone: 541-926-3388

Larry Schwartz will be giving a health update, followed by a Q&A.

Bring any raffle donations and any calendar money or unsold calendars.

March Meeting

The March meeting will be the awards banquet on March 15th at Saylor's Country Kitchen. See page 3 for details and directions.

April Meeting

The April meeting will be held on Sunday, April 13th at Carol Jansen's house in Salem. Her address is 4850 Justice Way S., phone (503) 581-1826

Barb Doolin, our ESRA coordinator, will be talking about rescue and fostering dogs.

Braggs and Wags

- Oxbow's Sweetheart of the Rodeo, was WB, BOS at the Greater Clark County show in December and then followed in January by going Best of Opposite at the WVESSA Supported Entry sweeps at the Rose City Cluster. Juliette is bred/owned/handled by Dave and Janeé Kemp.
- M'Classic & Hijinks Hot Legs had a nice start to the year going BOS at the WVESSA supported entry and BOS at Dog Fanciers of Oregon. Roxie is owned by Elaine Resner.

Annual Awards

All club members are responsible for applying to receive an annual title certificate, including CGCs. Applications must be received no later than March 2, 2014 and should be mailed to the awards chairman: Carol Callahan at 5310 S. Bates Rd., Spokane Valley, WA 99206 or emailed to Donahan@aol.com. Certificates for titles earned will only be given to those who apply for the them.

Due to AKC's change in publication of show results, **owners are now responsible for tracking and providing information on their dog's wins** for WVESSA's Annual Awards.

2013 Awards Application

Dog's Registered Name: _____

Title Earned: _____

Date Completed: _____

Title Earned: _____

Date Completed: _____

Title Earned: _____

Date Completed: _____

Title Earned: _____

Date Completed: _____

Owner's Name: _____

Mail to the WVESSA Awards Chairman:

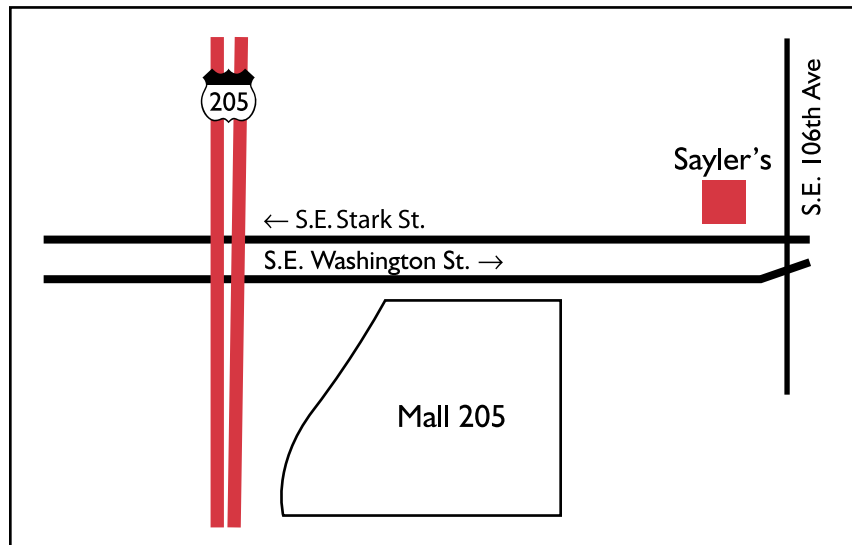
Carol Callahan
5310 S. Bates Rd.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
Donahan@aol.com

The Annual Awards Dinner

The Annual Awards Dinner will be Saturday, March 15th at Sayler's Old Country Kitchen. Cocktails at 6:30 and dinner at 7:00. RSVP Cathy English at (360) 887-8139 or Englishkc@aol.com by March 5, 2014.

Sayler's address is 10519 SE Stark Street, Portland. The instructions might seem confusing, but Stark and Washington are one way only streets.

From the North take I-205 South, take the Glisan/Stark Street exit, turn left on Washington Street, left on 106th and left on Stark Street. From the South I-205 take the Washington Street exit, turn right on Washington, left on 106th and left on Stark Street.



Your Baby Photos and Old Dog Photos are Needed!

As an icebreaker for the Awards Banquet, please email your photos to kelly.callahan@gmail.com and/or donahan@gmail.com. Snail mail originals (which will be returned) to Carol Callahan at 5310 S. Bates Rd., Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Show Results

Greater Clark County KC, 12/7/13

GP1/BOB GCH CH Hil-N-Don & Canyonwood Seemore Of Me
BOS GCH CH Pawmarc 'N Darkover Saving Grace
SD GCH CH Ramblewood Don'T Stop Believin
BOW/WB Topsail N Tradewind Peepshow
WD Pawmarc's Moonlight Kaboom
RWD Oxbow's Cowboy Crush
RWB Oxbow's Sweetheart of the Rodeo

Greater Clark County KC, 12/8/13

GP2/BOB GCH CH Hil-N-Don & Canyonwood Seemore Of Me
BOS/WB Oxbow's Sweetheart of the Rodeo
SD GCH CH Bryden Fairhaven Hidalgo CD RE OA OAJ NF
SB GCH CH Pawmarc 'N Darkover Saving Grace
BOW/WD Blackpearl Finnegan Mo Chroi
RWD Ramblewood Taking Care Of Business
RWB Topsail N Tradewind Peepshow

Puyallup Valley DF, 1/11/14

GP2/BOB GCH CH Hil-N-Don & Canyonwood Seemore Of Me
BOS GCH CH Ramblewood Make A Memory
SD GCH CH Ramblewood Don'T Stop Believin
SB GCH CH Pawmarc 'N Darkover Saving Grace
BOW/WB Kismet Galfox Ridgewyn Precious Cargo
WD Ramblewood Taking Care Of Business
RWD Ramblewood Magic Carpet Ride
RWB Pawmarc's Dazzle Me Bright

Tacoma KC, 1/12/14

GP1/BOB GCH CH Hil-N-Don & Canyonwood Seemore Of Me
BOS/WB Beswin Salulaire Sapphire
SD CH Fairhaven Wildrose Out Of This World
SB GCH CH Pawmarc 'N Darkover Saving Grace
BW/WB Blackpearl Finnegan Mo Chroi
RWD Gleneire's Ceo Encore
RWB Pawmarc 'N Darkover Just a Dream

Sammamish KC, 1/13/14

GP4/BOB GCH CH Bryden Fairhaven Hidalgo CD RE OA OAJ NF
BOS GCH CH Pawmarc 'N Darkover Saving Grace
SD GCH CH Hil-N-Don & Canyonwood Seemore Of Me
SB CH Mar-Ric Wheel Of Fortune RN
BOW/WD Gleneire's Ceo Encore
RWD Ramblewood Taking Care Of Business
WB Pawmarc 'N Darkover Just A Dream
RWB Gentry's Valley Girl At Shadow Hill

Tualatin KC, 1/16/14

GP2/BOB CH Darkover'N Pawmarc's Dream On
BOS GCH CH Pawmarc 'N Darkover Saving Grace
SD CH Mar-Ric Signature Edition
BOW/WD Segre's Hang On To Your Hat
RWD Ocoee Wild About Hunter
WB Beswin Salulaire Sapphire
RWB Laurelwyn Enigma

DFA or Oregon, 1/17/14

BOB GCH CH Segre's Brown Derby BN RA OA OAJ
BOS/WB Pawmarc's Dazzle Me Bright
SD CH Darkover'N Pawmarc's Dream On
SB GCH CH Pawmarc 'N Darkover Saving Grace
BOW/WD Segre's Hang on to Your Hat
RWD Ocoee Wild About Hunter
RWB Beswin Ynot Now And Forever

DFA of Oregon, 1/18/14

BOB CH Darkover'N Pawmarc's Dream On
BOS GCH CH M' Classic & Hijinks Hot Legs NA NAJ NJP NF
SD GCH CH Hil-N-Don & Canyonwood Seemore Of Me
SB GCH CH Pawmarc 'N Darkover Saving Grace
BOW/WB Emerald Ilse Well Hello Dolly
WD Ramblewood Ride Like The Wind
RWD Ocoee Wild About Hunter
RWB Pawmarc's Dazzle Me Bright

Tualatin KC, 1/19/14

GP2/BOB GCH CH Hil-N-Don & Canyonwood Seemore Of Me
BOS GCH CH M' Classic & Hijinks Hot Legs NA NAJ NJP NF
SD CH Oxbow's Notorious
SB GCH CH Pawmarc 'N Darkover Saving Grace
BOW/WD Ramblewood Ride Like The Wind
RWD Oxbow's Cowboy Crush
WB Ramblewood You'Re So Vain
RWB Emerald Ilse Well Hello Dolly

Coming Events

Conformation & Obedience

February 21-24, 2014

Covered Bridge Cluster
Albany, OR

Friday: Clay Coady
Saturday: James M. Brown
Sunday: Susan St. John Brown
Monday: Loraine Boutwell

March 8-9, 2014

Seattle Kennel Club
Seattle, WA
Saturday: TBA
Sunday: TBA

March 22-23, 2014

Peninsula Dog Fanciers
Bremerton, WA
Saturday: Loraine Boutwell
Sunday: Marilyn C. Spacht

March 29-30, 2014

Chintimini Kennel Club
Albany, OR
Saturday: Honey Anne Glendinning
Sunday: Valerie J. Brown

April 12-13, 2014

Ephrata-Moses Lake Kennel Club
Moses Lake, WA
Saturday: Charles E. Trotter
Sunday: Patricia V. Trotter

April 18-21, 2014

Lewiston Spring Cluster
Lewiston, ID
Friday: Donna J. Buxton
Saturday: Dr. Gareth Morgan-Jones
Sunday: Kenneth A. Buxto
Monday: Ann D. Hearn

April 26-27, 2014

Walla Walla Kennel Club
Walla Walla, WA
Saturday: Jon R. Cole
Sunday: Normal L. Patton

May 3-4, 2014

Olympia Dog Fanciers Assoc.
Elma, WA
Saturday: Paula Nykiel
Sunday: Debbie Campbell-Freeman

May 10-11, 2014

Klamath Dog Fanciers
Klamath Falls, OR
Saturday: Elizabeth Muthard
Sunday: Charles L. Olvis

May 17-18, 2014

Mt. Baker Kennel Club
Lynden, WA
Saturday: TBD
Sunday: TBD

May 24-25, 2014

Spokane Kennel Club
Spokane, WA
Saturday: Desmond J. Murphy
Sunday: Patricia A. Hess

May 26-27, 2014

Coeur d'Alene Dog Fanciers
Coeur d'Alene, ID
Monday: Del Richards
Tuesday: Dyane M. Baldwin

May 31-June 1, 2014

Yakima Kennel Club
Yakima, WA
Saturday: Elizabeth Muthard
Sunday: Terry B. Carter

AKC Agility

February 21-24, 2014

Albany, OR
Lynden, WA
Liberty Lake, WA

March 1-2, 2014

Auburn, WA

March 8-9, 2014

Seattle, WA

March 14-16, 2014

Ridgefield, WA
Caldwell, ID
Monroe, WA

March 21-23, 2014

Auburn, WA
Moses Lake, WA

March 28-30, 2014

Rigby, ID
Albany, OR

April 4-6, 2014

Auburn, WA

April 12-14, 2014

Auburn, WA

April 18-20, 2014

Ridgefield, WA

April 25-27, 2014

Auburn, WA

May 2-3, 2014

Auburn, WA

May 8-10, 2014

Canby, OR
Nine Mile Falls, WA

May 16-18, 2014

Auburn, WA
Klamath Falls, OR

May 23-25, 2014

Graham, WA
Eugene, OR

May 30-June 1, 2014

Sequim, WA
Canby, OR
Caldwell, ID

Tracking

March 2, 2014

Bow, WA
TD

March 9, 2014

Palisades, WA
TD, TDX

March 16, 2014

Portland, OR
VST

March 23, 2014

Monmouth, OR
TDU

March 30, 2014

White City, OR
TD, VST, TDX



Dog Bytes is bimonthly newsletter published by the Willamette Valley English Springer Spaniel Association.

Any questions, comments, or article submissions can be forwarded to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit or to refuse any copy.

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