

Dog and Cat Body Language

Reading a dogs body language

Relaxed:

- .Lips, ears, muscles and eyes are relaxed
- .Normal Breathing



Under stress:

- .Ears back and down and pinned against neck
- .Wide open mouth with lips drawn back
- .Rapid breathing
- .Body very tense, hunched forward, tail tucked away, trembling



Passive:

- .Curved Body
- .Head lowered and turned away
- .Ears lowered but relaxed
- .Tense over eyebrows
- .Squinting/blinking
- .Lips soft
- .Nose/lip licks
- .Raised Paw



Aggressive if approached:

- .Curved Body
- .Looking Away
- .Head lifted slightly
- .Pupils dilated with a frozen stare out of the corner of the eye
- .Body positioned for fight or flight
- .Ears back with tail between the legs
- .Lips and muzzle tense with whiskers sticking out



Scared, aggressive if approached:

- .Looking at wall not at the person
- .Nose up and ears back
- .Wide eyed stare with lips curl



Reading a cats body language



Calm:

- .Tail and head held high with upright ears indicates a confident/curious cat
- .Feet planted firmly on the ground
- .Tail provides balance
- .Whiskers erect and measure width of body

Stressed:

- .Eyes dilated and wide open with tense face
- .Ears alert and rotating
- .Body turned towards threat
- .Body positioned for fight or flight
- .Tail is probably wrapped tightly around body



Unsure, ready to protect itself:

- .Arched back to look larger with ruffled fur
- .Tail is hanging down
- .Ears forward



Aggressive/Upset:

- .Twitching tail
- .Ears back
- .Eyes wide with dilated pupils and tense face
- .Possible growling
- .Possible panting



Relaxed:

- .Relaxed Face
- .Direct eye contact demonstrates trust
- .Tail in relaxed position
- .Slanted eyes indicate contentment
- .Ears always attentive
- .Blinking the eyes
- .Could knead with the front paws
- .Could be purring
- .Sniffs or rubs their face against you
- .Could lick (groom) you
- .Could yawn



