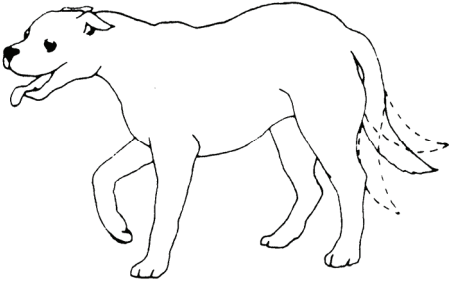


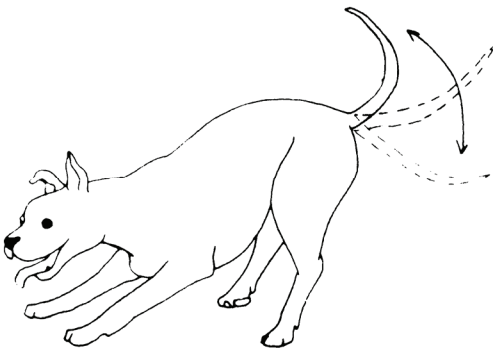
What are these dogs telling us?



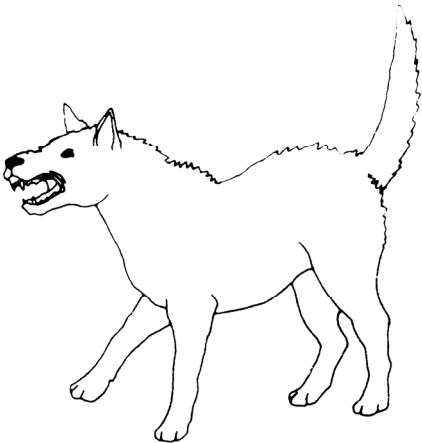
This dog's ears are back and her face is relaxed. Her tail is held low. She is also raising her front paw. She is not hurt. She is telling us that she is a little unsure of the situation but means no harm. It is important to go slow with this dog. We don't want to scare her or make her any more uncomfortable.



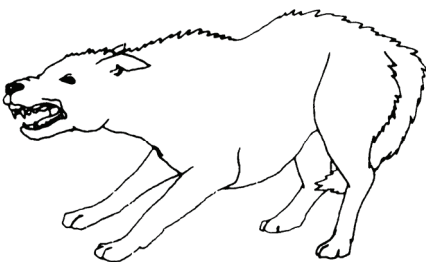
Does this dog want a belly rub? Maybe. But we also need to look at his ears, face and tail. Because his ears are back, his tail is tucked and he is exposing his belly, this dog is telling us that he trusts us completely. He wouldn't put himself in such a vulnerable position if he didn't! Be sweet to this dog and don't do anything to break that trust.



This dog is ready to play! His ears and tail are up in the air. His front legs are low and his back legs are straight. You might notice a dog in this play position with his whole back side wagging because he is so excited. We must be careful with this dog because, even though he is playing, he might get too rough. Overly excited dogs may jump up and knock us over.

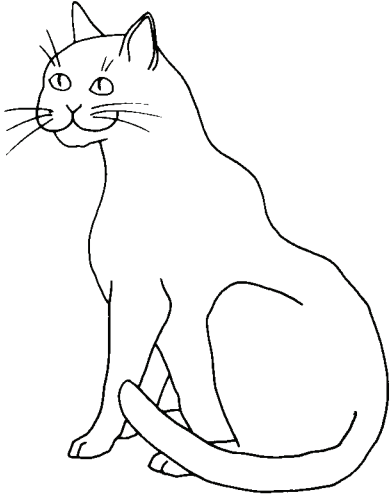


We know this dog is angry because her hair is standing up and her teeth are showing. But her posture is telling us that she is not afraid. Her tail is straight up in the air, her ears are up and she is making herself look bigger. If we see a dog like this, we must stand completely still and not make eye contact with the dog. We don't want to raise our arms, run or make any sudden movements.

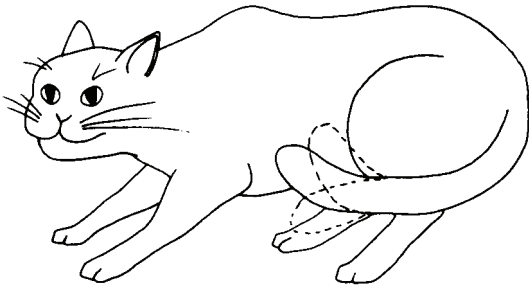


This dog is also very angry. But the main difference in this dog and the one above is that this dog is afraid. Look at the way her tail is tucked, her ears are back and she is crouching down. We must also use extreme caution with this dog because she is dangerous. We must not approach her or make eye contact with her. It is important to remain calm and keep a clear head when you see an angry dog!

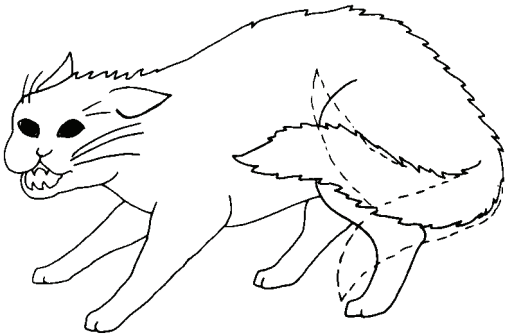
What are these cats telling us?



This cat is content. He has a relaxed face and erect ears. He is comfortable with the situation and the people around him. We must be respectful of him, pet him when he comes to us and let him walk away when he has had enough. We don't want to force him to do anything he doesn't want to do!



This cat is focused on something. We can tell this by his dilated eyes and the look of intensity on his face. His tail is twitching. He is ready to pounce on the object. When cats start to get this intense, we should leave them alone to play by themselves. Cats easily become over stimulated and can lash out with little warning.



This cat is very upset! His ears are back, his eyes are dilated and he appears to be hissing. Notice how his tail is making big, thumping movements. He is ready to attack. Cat bites and scratches are very painful and can require medical attention. Don't be the reason your cat looks like this!