My ears are up.  
I'm smiling.  
My eyes are happy and relaxed.

You can pet me when I look like this.

I'm feeling scared.

My ears are back.  My mouth is closed.  
My eyes look worried.  My tail is probably tucked too.

When I'm scared I may bite.
My ears are back. My mouth is closed. My eyes look worried. My tail is tucked.

I don't like to be hugged.

My ears are back. My mouth is closed. My eyes are looking away. My tail is probably tucked too.

I don't like people near my face.
Whisper Says

Leave Me Alone!

I may growl, snarl or even bite.

Don't pet me when I'm eating.

Whisper Says

Leave Me Alone!

I may growl, snarl or even bite.

When I am chewing my bones or toys.
Whisper Says

Be Gentle to Me.

My ears are back.
My mouth is closed.
My eyes are looking away.
I don't want to be hurt.

Don't pull my ears or tail.

Whisper Says

I'll Be Your Friend

If you are kind and gentle to me.
How to Greet a Dog

Remember these steps when meeting and greeting a dog. Always ask permission to pet a dog when it is on a leash and with its owner. Never greet a loose dog without an owner.

Even if you know the dog and are friends with its owner, it's important to remember and follow this plan.

Make Like a Tree

"Make like a tree." This safety tip could prevent injury if you encounter a threatening or a loose dog. A dog should be kept on a leash when it is out in a public place. However, you may see a dog wandering loose without an owner.

Never approach or pet a loose dog or a dog without an owner. But a loose dog may approach you. In that case, don't run away, and don't yell or make loud noises.

If a loose dog approaches:
- Stand very still like a tree.
- Cross your arms over your chest, as if you are giving yourself a great big hug. (This shape forms the trunk of your tree.)
- Look away from the dog. Dogs think direct eye contact is a challenge for power and control. You do not want to challenge the dog. You want the dog to go away.
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