

<u>Ask</u>

How can you tell this dog is friendly?

What to look for

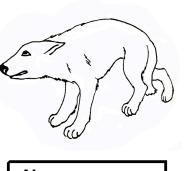
Open mouth like a smile, ears and tail relaxed - not tucked and not straight up. Might be wagging in wide wags.

Activities

- Silently act out a happy posture and expression then ask your child what they think you are feeling?
- Ask them how they know?
- Discuss how your body language/expression is similar to or different from the dog's here.

Safest Greeting Protocol

- Child asks both the dog's human and the dog if it is okay to greet by stopping at a polite distance and saying "Hi."
- If dog is friendly, child may be politely friendly. You must judge each dog and situation.
- If dog ignores child, child leaves dog alone.
- Same rules for greeting a strange dog as greeting a strange adult human polite, calm interaction. No hugging, no grabbing.



Nervous
Frightened
Leave Alone (or Stay Away)

<u>Ask</u>

How can you tell this dog is nervous?

What to look for

Head and tail low, ears back, mouth long and pulled back, whites of eyes showing more than usual. May be still or trembling. Dog hunched up - trying to be as small as possible.

Activities

- Silently act out a nervous posture and expression then ask your child what they think you are feeling?
- Ask them how they know?
- Discuss how your body language/ expression is similar to or different from the dog's here.

Safest Greeting Protocol

Child should leave ALL nervous/frightened dogs alone! 100% alone. Ignore them. Leave alone!



<u>Ask</u>

How can you tell this dog is "angry"?

What to look for

Head and tail high up, stiff/tense, mouth closed and shortened, staring, often still, may be growling or barking. Dog is standing tall trying to be as big as possible.

Activities

- Silently act out an angry posture and expression then ask your child what they think you are feeling?
- Ask them how they know?
- Discuss how your body language/ expression is similar to or different from the dog's here.

Safest Greeting Protocol

This is an unsafe situation. Stay away!

by Sarah Wilson, SarahWilsonDogExpert.com Special thanks to artist, Arielle Fischer, for her dog & drawing expertise.