

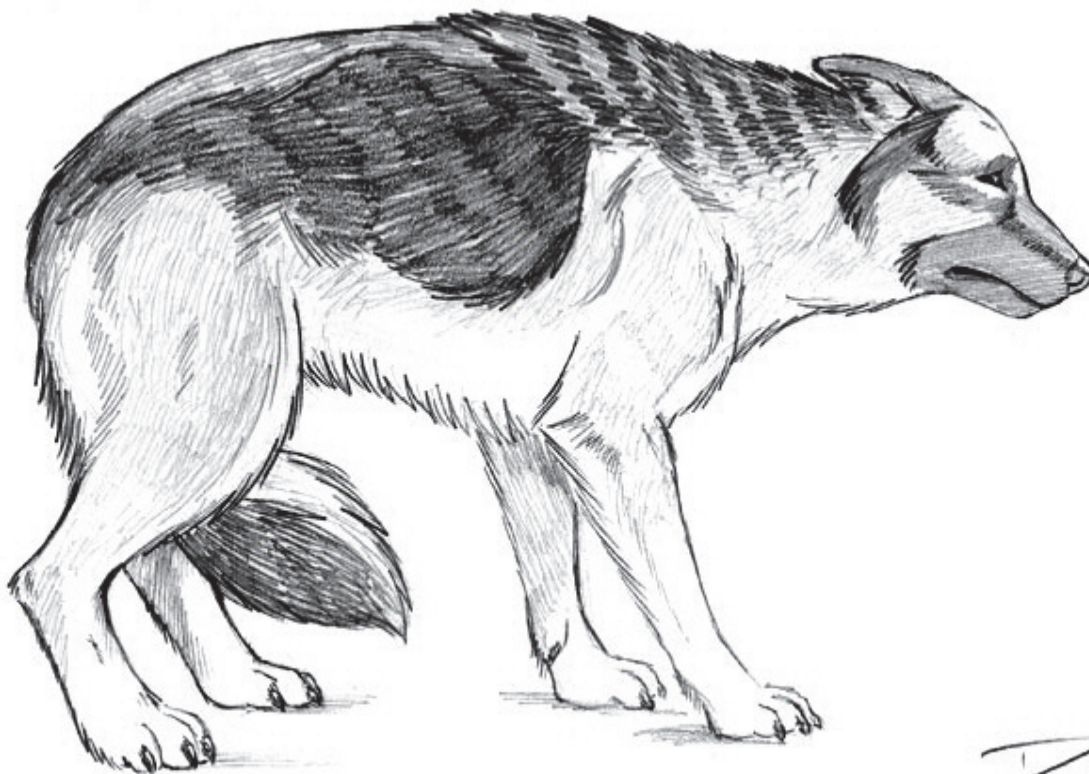
## Dog Body Language

### Fearful Dog

- Lowered head, body and tail;
- Leaning back;
- Pupils dilated;
- Facial tension;
- Teeth bared;
- Ears, mouth and whiskers down and back;
- Hackles may be raised.



The dog is telling you that he/she feels threatened and if the threat continues he/she may resort to aggression. Many dog bites to people are a result of fear aggression.



*JHEW*  
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2.28.2005

## Reactive Dog

- Raises to full height, may be standing on toes and leaning forward;
- Has dilated and staring pupils;
- Tail raised stiffly and may be slightly waving;
- Hackles raised;
- Teeth bared;
- Lips raised and corners of the mouth forward;
- Facial tension;
- Stiff in movement or very still;
- Ears raised and forward.

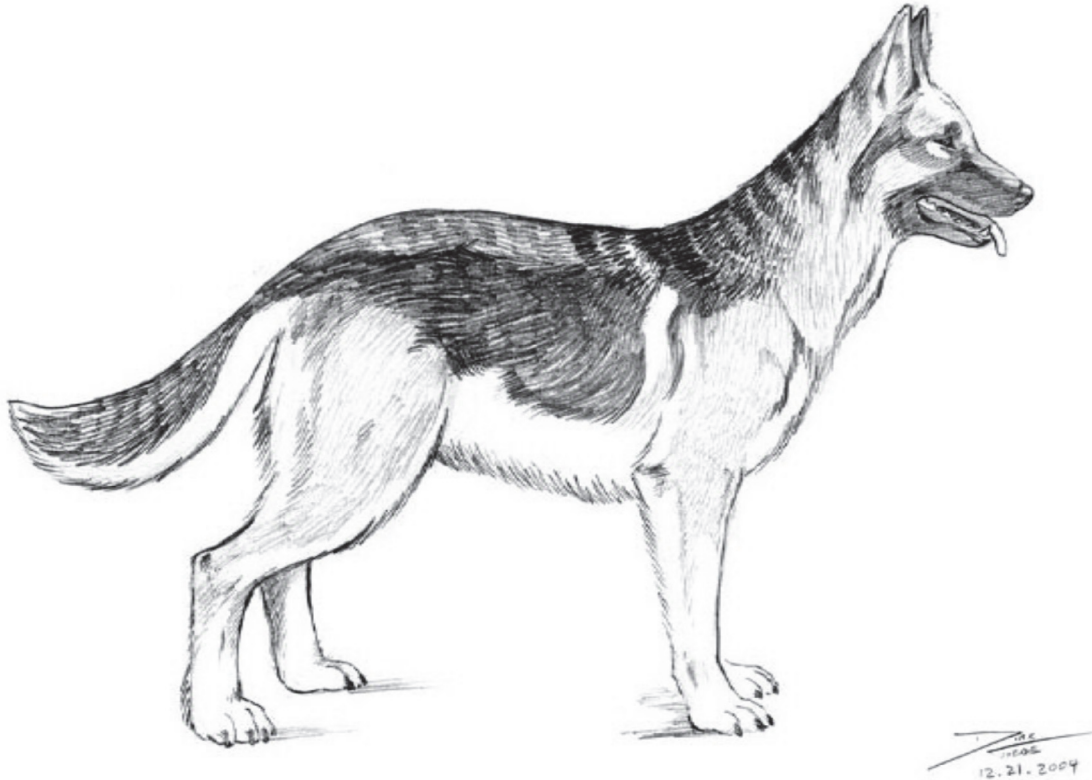


Dogs exhibit these behaviours to warn off a threatening approach. If we continue to approach they are likely to bite.



## Relaxed Dog

- The whole body is relaxed and moving freely;
- Tail wags are broad and relaxed;
- Face, eyes, ears and mouth are relaxed.



If you think a dog may attack:

- Resist the impulse to scream or run
- Remain motionless, hands at your sides, and avoid eye contact with the dog
- Once the dog loses interest in you, slowly back away
- If the dog does attack, "feed" him your jacket, purse or anything that you can put between yourself and the dog
- If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over your ears and remain motionless