



DOG COMMUNICATION

Dogs communicate at different "volumes." The early signs of fear or discomfort are subtle (low volume on the chart). If they aren't heard, dogs have to turn up the volume to get their point across. Noticing and listening to the more subtle signs enables us to intervene and help dogs feel more comfortable so they don't resort to the more overt signs (high volume on the chart).



BITES - (can be avoided if we listen to the signs below)

AIR SNAPS - (bite with no contact)



GROWLS - (getting louder on the continuum)

SNARLS/SHOWS TEETH - (when not playing)



FREEZES - (suddenly stops moving, stares, gives a hard eye)

SPEEDS UP/PAUSES EATING - (resource guarding)



CROUCHES, TUCKS TAIL - (making oneself smaller)

CREEPS, EARS BACK - (especially if ears are tightly back)



WALKS/RUNS AWAY - (a clear flight response)

SITS/STALLS - (especially if dog is fearful on walks)



AVOIDS - (head turns/dodge, body turn)

YAWNS - (when not obviously tired)



LICKS LIPS - (when not having just eaten or had water)