

Info shared by Pitbull SA.

Manjaro APBT kennel.

South Africa.

My Website www.pitbullsa.co.za

My E mail "manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za"

My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"

My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"

My mobile +27827838280.

Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.

Understanding dog body language and verbal clues.

Have you ever wondered why your dog makes those strange muttering sounds at the dinner table?

Why he lays his ears back when confronted with a stranger?

Why he click his teeth when close to a female or testing other dog's smells or urine?

Why some APBT doesn't growl or bark but scream cry when excited seeing another dog?

Dogs do speak to us, but in a different language – this you must come to understand.

Understanding that dogs were once wild animals and by looking at the domesticated dog's ancestor, the wolf types and wild dog types and their pack rank dominance and rituals we could identify with this order with our dogs today in the household – realize we became their excepted “human family”.

There must be a person of authority the leader of sorts that the dog will listen to, and that leader should be you – especially with the game APBT dog.

To be an effective canine leader, you need to know what your dog is trying to tell you – or they waiting for your clue.

Dogs communicate in many ways with each other (then do the same with humans today).

Even face expression changes if you the leader figure talk to your dog – just look at the eyes – they become softer and might even in reward you with a “smile”.

These body signs are communion’s signs and you can read the state of their level of participation and mood.

Humans, of course, communicate with dogs with voice commands (voice and tone of voice) and phrases and sometimes even a hand sign. Dogs can learn hundreds of human sounds but they cannot string them together or understand the words.

Therefore the need for short commands is necessarily such as “Sit!” “Stay” “Come!” “Stop” “Go” “Quit” even a whistle or special sounds like “Stsssst” “phfff” or any consistent sound of your choosing (yep - they learn to comprehend).

Many of our well planned communication tools are lost on dogs, such as sarcasm (to indicate frustration) or closed body language (to indicate you are uncomfortable) or a look of surprise or a facial expression.

Therefore, to enhance our communication with our canines, we must learn to get back to the basics and speak “dog” for their understanding and your understanding.

The dog's body language/facial expressions.

Confident and relaxed.

Stance – erect -tail - wagging slowly - ears - pricked up but with a relaxed look - Soft look eyes - small pupils - mouth - closed or slight parting of lips – expecting a clue from you.

Fearful for the unexpected or unknown but ready expecting or anxious.

Stance – lowered tail - tucked under tail – ears down or alternately pricked - eyes focused wide-eyed look with the whites showing - mouth tensed – maybe panting.

Aggressive.

Ready predator style stance (you can't miss this) – rigid - tail - straight up or out behind, very rigid - Ears - pricked up - Eyes - intense, focused stare - Mouth - lips are pulled back and some teeth show - Hackles - this is a line of hair that starts at the base of the neck and runs down the shoulders – maybe a foot lifted frozen.

Hairs raised if a dog is feeling challenged or having aggressive tendencies and lowered if he is relaxed.

Fear-Aggressive.

Stance - dog is pulled into himself - Tail - tucked completely under - Ears - lying down - Eyes - wide-eyed and trouble focusing - Mouth - lips pulled back slightly or heavy panting.

Relaxed.

Stance - lying down or standing without any alertness -Tail - up and wagging or lying naturally - Ears - at their normal state relaxed - Eyes - normal pupil dilation, focused but not staring - Mouth - open and lightly panting or closed.

Dog verbal cues.

The howl. This is an attempt to locate someone for attention or separation anxiety, perhaps in reply to a dog down the street.

When you leave for work, it is very possible your dog howls in an effort to get you back.

When one dog starts howling in the neighborhood, usually many others join in - it is sort of like a conference call.

The growl.

Definite warning or voicing intention - this means "back off." You will see a dog growl when another dog gets interested in his food.

Your dog may growl at a stranger he does not like or he may growl at you when you try to take his toy away.

It is actually a very effective way of communicating and actually signals that you can or might negotiate that toy away.

When a dog is in an aggressive stance and silent, there is the most danger.

The grunt or mutter.

This is usually to indicate that your dog wants something. It's an interesting sound because it's almost manipulative - your dog knows if he barks,

he'll get into trouble but the more subtle "grunt" or Mmmnnnph or clicking of teeth or licking their lip might get him what he wants - a pathetic attitude.

It is also heard when dogs greet other dogs or humans.

The whimper.

Dogs whimper when they are anxious or hurt.

Sometimes they figure out that they get attention when they whimper and use this to their advantage.

The whine.

This indicates frustration. They are in a sense "complaining" about something.

The bark.

There are many different types of barks – definite distinct able and specific to your individual dog.

A high-pitched bark indicates excitement and happiness.

A low-pitched bark indicates aggression and is possibly a threat.

Dogs bark to get attention, to respond to other dogs, to indicate that they are happy, and to alert their human to a problem.

Unfortunately, your dog may detect a "problem" that you cannot see or hear, such as siren far away or the neighbor's cat hiding in the tree outside the window.

By understanding our dogs' language, we can better communicate with them and avoid common misunderstandings.

And you can be assured that your dog isn't going crazy when he's muttering to himself all the time.

Different barks and intensities for different happenings