



Your Dog's View of the World

Your dog views the world differently than you do. Remembering these four points of view will help keep your dog happy and safe. Plus they'll know you always "have their back".

Familiar or Unfamiliar

To our dogs something is either familiar to them or unfamiliar. The something can be a location, person, object or experience. Familiar things are safe. Unfamiliar things are not. Dogs view things in very specific contexts. They may enjoy swimming in the pool in your backyard and consider the pool at your friend's house as unfamiliar. When your dog encounters unfamiliar things, they may display stress signals. Monitor their adjustment and if signals increase in number and frequency take steps to intervene and make your dog more comfortable.



Space

Personal space and distance from perceived threats are very important in allowing a dog to feel safe. Very small shifts in distance between your dog and a person, other animal or object can change the dog's emotional response very quickly (usually for the good if there is more distance and for the bad if there is less distance). Observe your dog's body language and increase distance when you notice "yellow" postures or behavior. (Green, yellow and red classifications are used in our *Canine Body Language Made Easy* resources that you can access in our library).

Pace

Dogs that encounter unfamiliar or uncomfortable situations will display "yellow" or "red" postures and behavior. Your goal is to allow the dog time to slowly observe the situation and become more relaxed so that they will become comfortable and shift to "green". Observe your dog and go at their pace when you are introducing them to new and uncomfortable situations. Remember that exposure is not enough. The encounter needs to go at the dog's pace and give the dog plenty of time to adjust.



Enjoy It, Tolerate It or Hate It

We all want our dogs to enjoy their world and the great news is their emotions are easy to read in their body language. When you learn the posture and behavior indicators of your dog "tolerating" an experience it may be because it is unfamiliar to them. Use space and pace to help your dog adjust and shift to enjoying the experience. When you observe postures and behavior that your dog "hates" an experience you need to immediately intervene to keep you, your dog and others safe.



Check out our library for *Canine Body Language Made Easy* resources.
Learn dog stress signals and clues to keeping your dog happy and safe.
www.TheDogGurus.com