



ASAB 2012

# ***KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE NEAR DOGS***

**Kendal Shepherd (BVSc, CCAB, MRCVS)**

**Adapted for classroom use by Jean Archer**

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## Questions for the survey

- 1 Do you have a pet dog?
- 2 Do you like dogs?
- 3 Does a relative of yours have a pet dog?
- 4 What makes dogs likely to bite?
- 5 How can we prevent a dog biting us?
- 6 Is a small dog less likely to bite than a larger dog?
- 7 Are breeds like Alsatians, Rotweillers, etc. more likely to bite than other breeds?
- 8 Are all dogs likely to bite?
- 9 Are you frightened of dogs?
- 10 Have you ever been growled at by a dog? If so, what did you do?
- 11 Have you ever been bitten by a dog? If so, what did you do?
- 12 How can we keep ourselves safe near dogs?
- 13 Have you ever seen a dog being mistreated?  
  
For example, have you seen:
  - a) a dog being hit?
  - b) a dog being shouted at?
  - c) a dog being kept in dirty conditions?
  - d) a dog chained up for most of the day?

# Keeping ourselves safe near dogs

## Worksheet 2

Are all dogs likely to bite?

Look carefully at these photographs.

Which dogs do you think may bite you?

What if the situation were to change? Might your view be different?



Discuss your feelings with a partner.

Can we tell, just by looking, if a dog is likely to bite us in these situations?

Look at these photographs carefully.

Divide the photographs into 3 groups: those dogs that are:

- a) most likely to bite;
- b) might possibly bite;
- c) least likely to bite.

Discuss your feelings with a partner.



What things make you frightened and feel threatened?

With a partner, compile a list of things that make you change from a calm person to a frightened person.

Also, write down what you think you would look like (i.e. how your face might change) as you go from being calm to being frightened.

*Be prepared to share your views with the rest of the class.*

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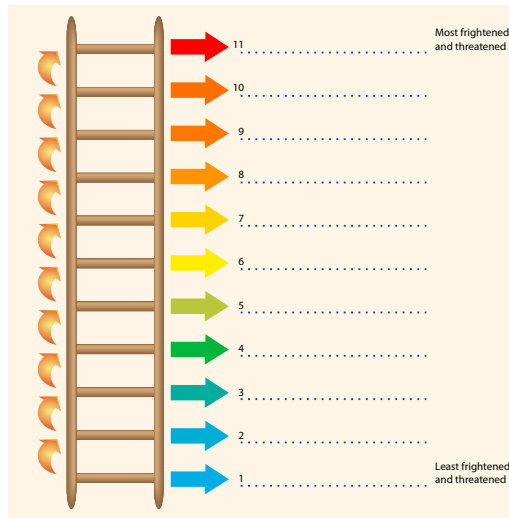
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What makes a dog frightened and feel threatened?

With a partner discuss what might cause a dog to change from a calm animal into one that is frightened and is therefore prepared to bite.

Be prepared to share your ideas with the rest of the class.

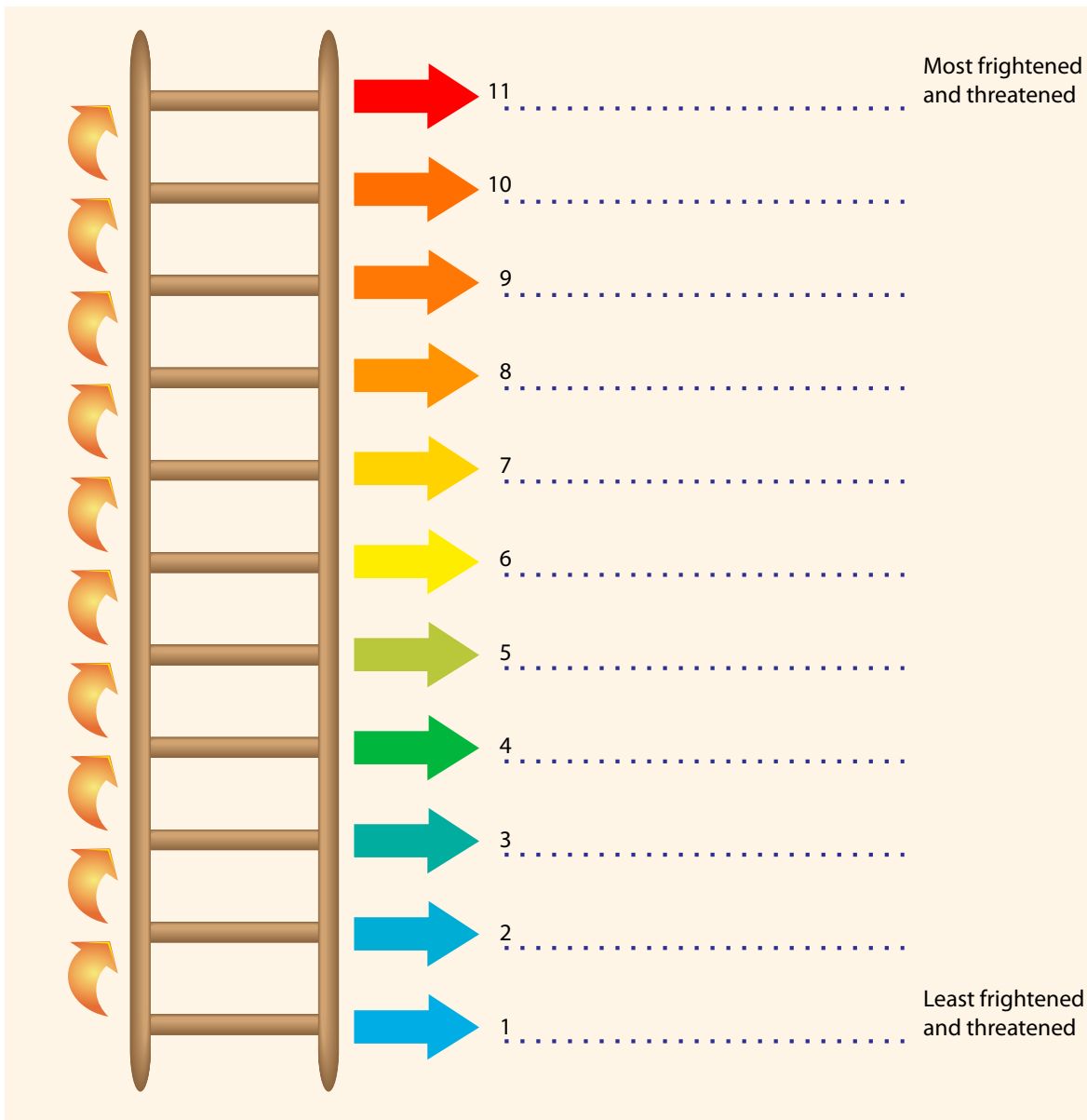
### The human Ladder of Aggression



What happens when we go from being calm to being angry and behaving aggressively?

*Clues to look out for, or changes to be aware of, include:*

- changes in physical appearance, especially of the face and hands;
- changes in speech, especially volume and shrillness of voice;
- changes in movement, especially rapid movement towards others.



How can we recognise when a human is getting frightened and feels threatened?

## The human Ladder of Aggression

Put these phrases or words in their correct position on the ladder.

Shout, scream, swear

Argue

Smile, handshake

Slap, punch, kick

'Please calm down'

Fold arms, frown, turn away

Push, throw something

Walk away

'I've said I'm sorry, stop it!'

Clench fist, threaten

'I'm sorry'



### How to get along with people

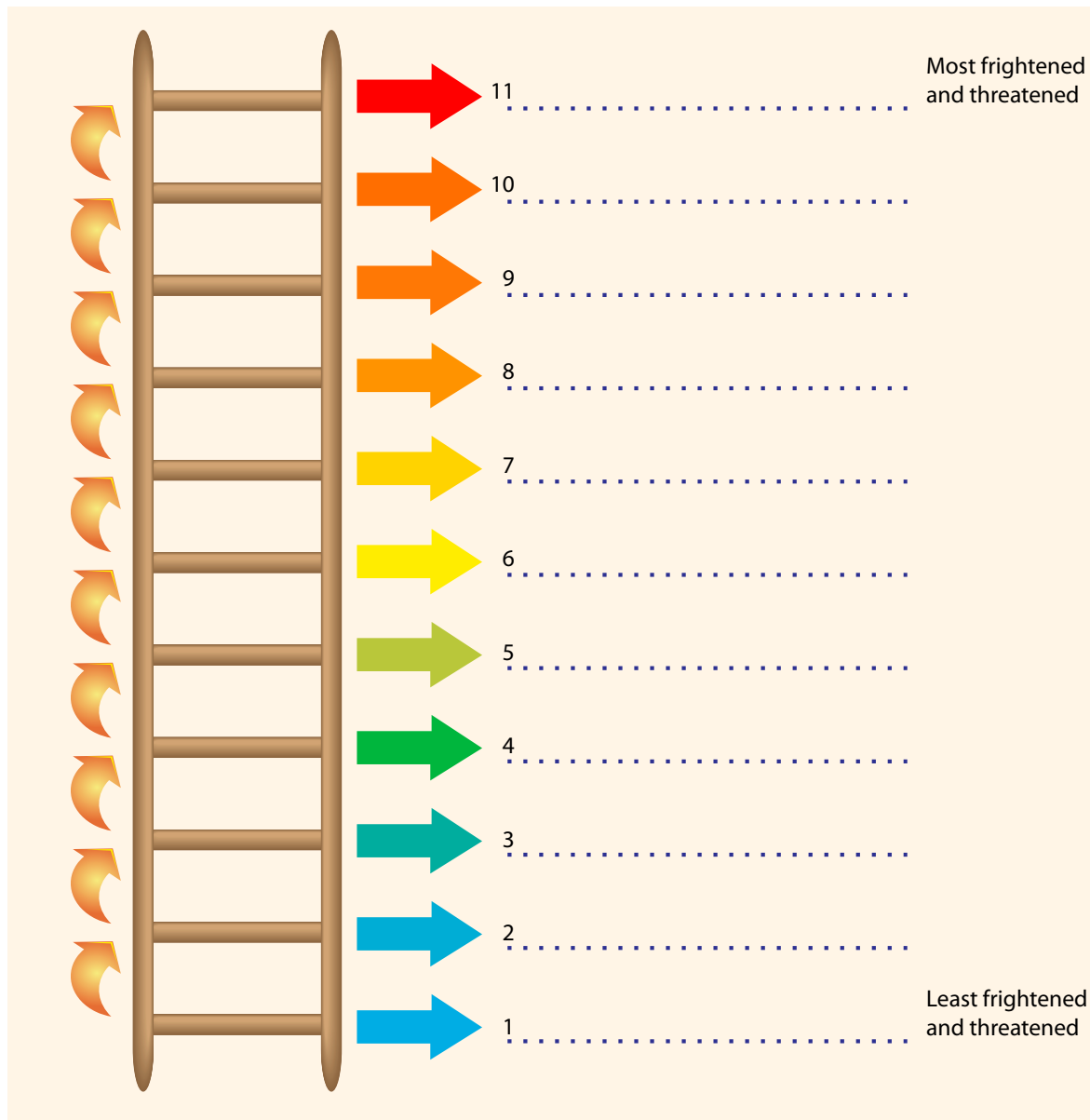
#### *Rules for living with other people*

Discuss with a partner how you would like to be treated by others so that you don't behave aggressively.

Think of sentences, phrases and words which we could put into a series of rules for living with others. Write them below.

Design a poster to help others understand and be aware of your 'triggers', that is events or situations that might cause you to behave aggressively.

*Put the poster in the space opposite.*



How can we recognise when a dog is getting frightened and feels threatened?

The canine Ladder of Aggression

Put these phrases or words in their correct position on the ladder.

Turning head away

Snapping

Standing crouched, tail tucked under

Stiffening up, staring

Lying down, leg up

Yawning, blinking, nose licking

Walking away

Biting

Turning body away, sitting, pawing

Creeping, ears back

Growling

## Role Play

In your groups write a short play about the scenario you have chosen. You will be given time to practise your dramatic piece. One person needs to take on the role of the dog and speak the thoughts of the dog.

## Choose from the following scenarios:

- 1 A dog is left outside in the rain.
- 2 It is bonfire night (5th November) and a dog is outside.
- 3 A group of children try to take from a dog the stick that it is playing with.
- 4 A dog is tied to a fence whilst children play with a ball.
- 5 A dog is being shouted at and hit for being `naughty`.
- 6 Children try to pat a dog that is tied to a post outside a shop.
- 7 A dog is being pulled off a sofa by a member of the family.
- 8 A dog in a nearby house or garden is continually barking.

## How to get along with dogs

### *Rules for living with dogs*

Put the following rules in order of importance. When you have decided on your order, use worksheet 12 to record your order and that of a friend.

- A Dogs do not know the difference between right and wrong.
- B Do not tease or deliberately excite a dog.
- C Get your dog used to your life.
- D Never hit or kick a dog.
- E Do not touch a dog you do not know.
- F Any dog may bite if it feels in danger.
- G Being cross does not make you the boss.
- H Do not take anything away from a dog, such as something it has stolen, or one of its toys.
- I When dogs are being `bad` they need the most help, not the most punishment.
- J Behaviours that dogs enjoy will be repeated.
- K Dogs must be taught what you want them to do and they must choose to do it.
- L Teach your dog to say `Please`.

Name

Date

## How to get along with dogs

Put the rules in order from 1 to 12, rank 1 being the most important, then 2, etc..

Rules	My order	Friend's order	Difference
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			
I			
J			
K			
L			
			Total =

Discuss with your partner why you have chosen a different order.

What does it mean if the total of the difference in the ranks between you and your friend is:

a) large?

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

b) small?

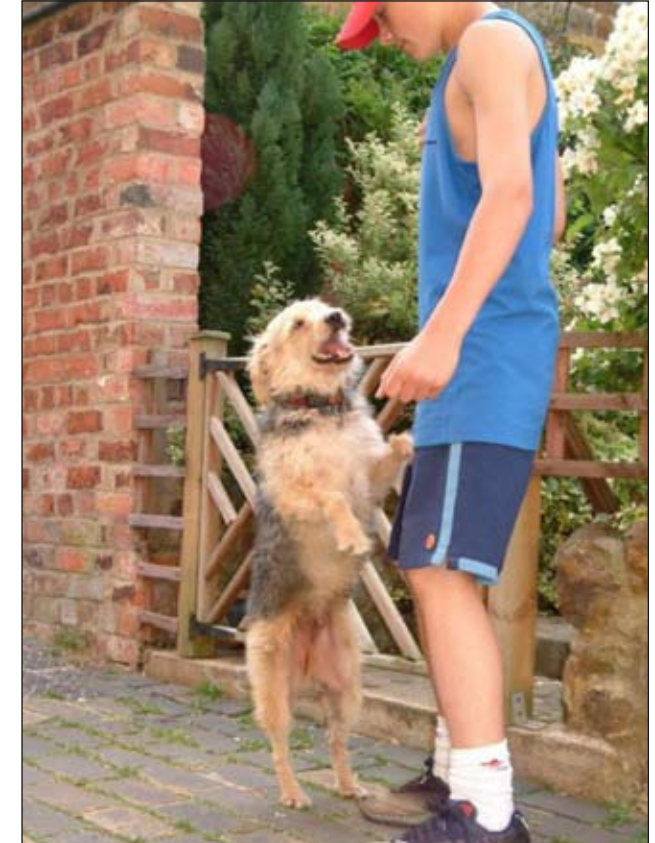
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## How to get along with dogs

How can you tell when a dog wants something?

How can we teach a dog to say 'please' nicely?

Which of the behaviours illustrated on the right is a suitable and safe version of a dog saying 'Please'?



## How to get along with dogs

A human hand could be threatening or dangerous to a dog. Humans need to consider carefully, from a dog's point of view, why this might be the case.

Look at the five images on the right. What is happening in each picture? For each image, say why the human hand is of a low, medium or high threat to the dog.



## Plenary session

Here are some general guidelines for communicating with dogs.

All dogs need information from us.

This information should not be given in a threatening way.

If we give clear messages to dogs about what we want and don't want they are far less likely to bite us.

A dog who does not feel threatened will feel no need to bite.

## Consider the following questions:

- 1 Can what is happening in a dog's environment change its behaviour?
- 2 Will a dog remember how it has been treated in the past?
- 3 If dogs could speak would they be less likely to have to bite?

*For dogs, actions definitely speak louder than words.*

*Alas, in human societies, wars continue to happen in spite of talking!*



## Plenary session

From what you have learnt, can you suggest some actions by humans which might cause dogs to be aggressive:

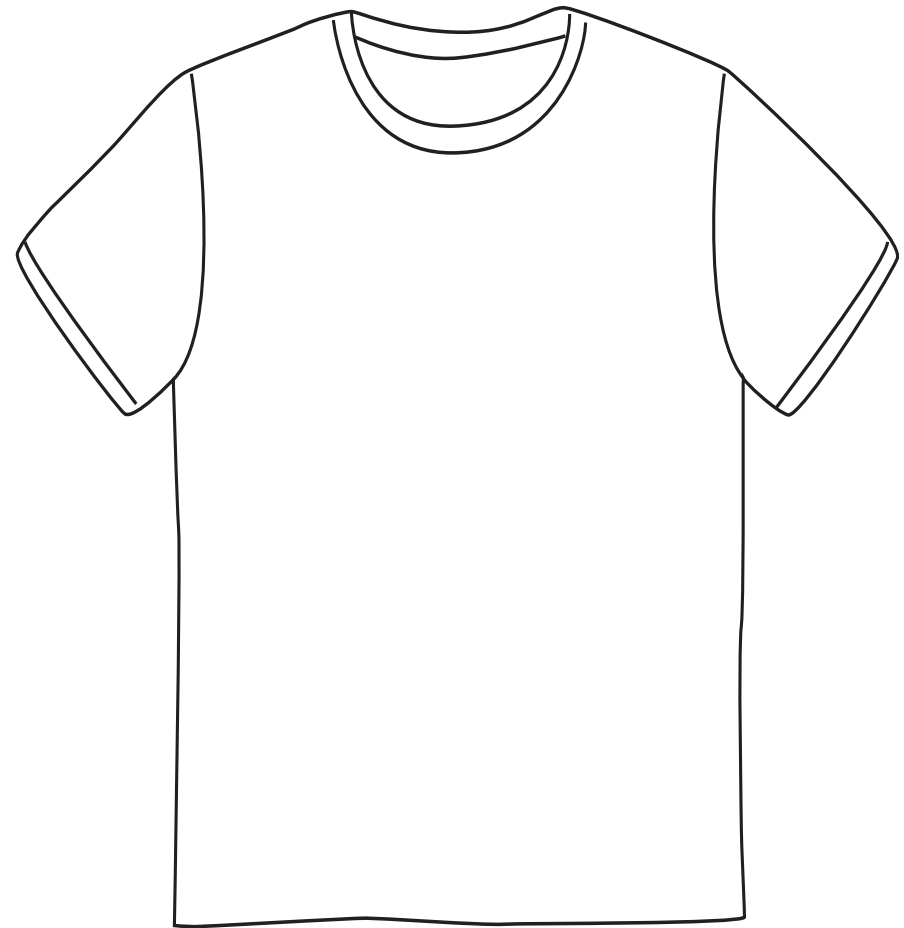
1

2

3

4

In 8 - 12 words, or less, devise a slogan for a T shirt that would encourage humans to behave non-aggressively towards dogs.



# Keeping ourselves safe near dogs

I intend no threat to you - please do not threaten me.



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