
词汇: *dogs* 狗

We all know what a dog means when it **wags** its tail – it means they’re happy, right? Well, maybe not according to leading animal psychologists who analyse what a dog may be or may not be feeling. There may be more of a tale in the movements of a dog’s tail than most of us think.

Most of us agree that it would probably make life whole lot easier and fun if dogs could actually **converse** rather than **bark** with us, but sadly they have not yet **evolved** to develop that skill. There are some obvious signs of what your **pooch** is thinking. For example, **growling** could show aggression, **scratching** at the door could mean a **call of nature**, and rolling on their backs could show **submission**.

However, in the opinions of experts like Stanley Coren, professor of psychology at the University of British Columbia, your **canine companion** may be trying to tell you much more with the movements and position of their tails. For example, a broad wag is a friendly sign and can mean that the dog is pleased.

If you see the tail **drooping**, it may be a sign that the animal is in a state of stress and anxiety. That’s according to Josie F. Turner, a journalist specialised in animal welfare. This is especially obvious if there are **whines** coming from them, or they are trying to hide. It may be time to get them on the **leash** and take them for that precious ‘w-word’ – **walkies**. Most dog owners know never to say that word in the vicinity of their **four-legged friend**, or they will get overly excited forcing you to take them out.

A **horizontal** tail with slight movements may be a sign that your canine is nervous or uncomfortable. And the more **ample** the movements, the more nervous your pooch may be. Finally, an **erect** tail accompanied by a **swagger** in the hips and lots of movement is a sign that your dog is as happy as can be – and very alert. However, if the tail is straight up in the air with no movement, it could be a sign that your dog is alert and trying to exert dominance.

So, the next time you're greeted by a dog, make sure to have a look and see what their tail is doing. In their own way, they're trying to tell you if they're sad, nervous or happy. Many of us would like to know exactly what they're thinking. Maybe we should just be grateful their tails are wagging and they're not plotting our demise.

词汇表

wag	摆动
converse	对话, 和……交谈
bark	狗叫
evolve	进化
pooch	狗
growl	(狗) 发出低沉的吼叫
scratch	(动物) 用爪子抓
call of nature	上厕所
submission	屈服, 顺从
canine companion	狗狗伙伴
droop	下垂
whine	发出哀叫
walkies	(唤狗用语) 该去散步了
four-legged friend	四条腿的朋友, 狗
horizontal	水平的
ample	大量的
erect	竖直的
swagger	大摇大摆

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What may an erect tail with no movement show?
2. Why might a dog scratch at the door?
3. True or false? *A dog's tail is the only way they communicate.*
4. Why does a dog roll over?
5. Why does a dog's tail droop?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. We have some lovely _____.

converse	conversation	conversations	conversed
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2. My dog is so _____. She's always rolling on her back.

submit	submissive	submission	submits
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3. Can you try and stop _____. I understand you're upset.

whine	whining	whines	whined
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4. I think your dog just _____ at me.

growl	growling	growled	growler
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5. He always tries to take over and _____ the meetings.

domination	dominating	dominate	dominated
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What may an erect tail with no movement show?

They are trying to show dominance.

2. Why might a dog scratch at the door?

So that they can go to the toilet.

3. True or false? *A dog's tail is the only way they communicate.*

False. The dogs also make noises and actions to show you what they want.

4. Why does a dog roll over?

Dogs roll over to show submission.

5. Why does a dog's tail droop?

When they are feeling uncomfortable.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. We have some lovely **conversations**.

2. My dog is so **submissive**. She's always rolling on her back.

3. Can you try and stop **whining**. I understand you're upset.

4. I think your dog just **growled** at me.

5. He always tries to take over and **dominate** the meetings.