

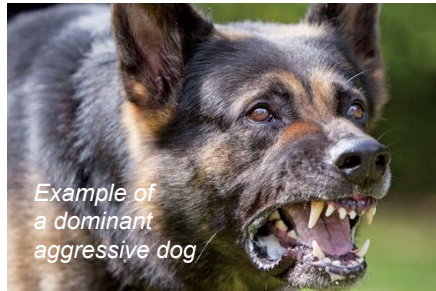
Dog Bite Prevention

UAA FACT SHEET

Dogs have their own set of behaviors, instincts and rules that are completely separate from humans. Despite this, we live in close contact with them; sometimes putting ourselves in situations we don't realize can be dangerous. Even dogs that seem friendly or have no history of aggressive behavior are capable of biting under certain circumstances.

It is also important to understand that more and more aggressive dog breeds are becoming popular for the general public to own, and are being conditioned to be extremely dangerous. Remember that ALL dogs are animals that live by instinct, and no matter what the breed, size, or how docile they can be at times, when any dog feels the need to protect its property or owner, it can do so viciously and without warning.

If a dog approaches you while entering a property, assess the animal's body language to determine its temperament and reaction to your presence (*see page 2*). A dominant aggressive dog will not allow you onto the property and will attack you, but a submissive dog can also bite, usually out of fear. Typically a dog exhibiting a dominant posture keeps his ears up/erect and his tail up – a "forward" body posture – opposite than a submissive dog. A submissive dog will usually remain low to the ground, keep its tail between its legs and hold its ears back. A submissive dog will easily back down from any confrontation, and often, simply by maintaining eye contact and stomping the ground with your foot, or stepping forward toward the dog when yelling is enough to send a submissive dog running. Typically, most dogs are submissive unless the dog has been mistreated or trained to be aggressive. Either type of dog may or may not growl or bark, these behaviors are not always indicative of a dog about to attack, but are warnings.



Example of a dominant aggressive dog



Example of a non dominant dog that will likely fear-bite

Dog Bite Facts

- Dogs are more likely to bite when the owner or other dogs are present due to pack behavior.
- Dogs are more likely to attack from the rear.
- Dogs are more likely to bite when in their "territory" and startled by a stranger.
- Dogs on leashes/runs are more likely to bite; they can feel cornered and threatened.
- Dog bites are twice as likely to occur outdoors as opposed to indoors.

Procedures to Reduce the Risk of Dog Bites

- Before entering a home or property, be sure to ask if they have a dog. When calling before working an order, ask the owner to put their dog away. Avoid entering an area with any unrestrained dog!
- If there is a dog on the property, insist the dog be restrained in a safe location before you enter the home or yard and remain restrained until you leave.
- If you see a 'Beware of Dog' or

similar sign – do not enter the home or yard until you can verify with the owner that their dog is restrained in a safe location.

- Remain alert and assess the area for signs that a dog may be near (dog house, food dish, leash, chain, worn path near a fence, chew toys, dog droppings, etc.).
- Respect a dog's space. Don't casually place your hands on a dog's fence or other property. Dogs are territorial by nature and may feel threatened if they don't know you.
- When approaching an area where a dog may be present, make noise, whistle, jingle your keys; anything to get a dog's attention to avoid catching them by surprise.
- Look for objects in the yard that could be used to defend against an attacking dog (e.g. shovel, rake, broom, hard hat, clipboard, garbage can lid, stick, etc.). You must get something between you and the dog, because if the dog attacks, it will bite the first thing that is thrust in its face – do not let that be a body part.
- If an owner refuses to restrain a dog, do not enter the home or yard.
- Do not pet a dog even if the owner says, "He doesn't bite." Employees have been bitten while attempting to pet dogs, even dogs on a leash.
- When confronted by a dog, step toward the dog and speak in a commanding tone using common commands such as "NO!" "GO HOME!" "LAY DOWN!" Make the dog believe you are supposed to be there and establish your dominance. Most dogs will submit and back off.
- Do not run and scream from a dog when it confronts you, this will trigger its prey drive and it will chase. (*Continued on back*)

- Don't turn your back on a dog. Dogs take this as a sign of submission and are more likely to attack. Keep a front or side posture with an eye on the dog until you are in a safe area.
- Update account information for the property. Add key info. such as "dog," "invisible fence," or "dog bit employee XX/20XX" so employees who work at that property at a

later date will be notified.

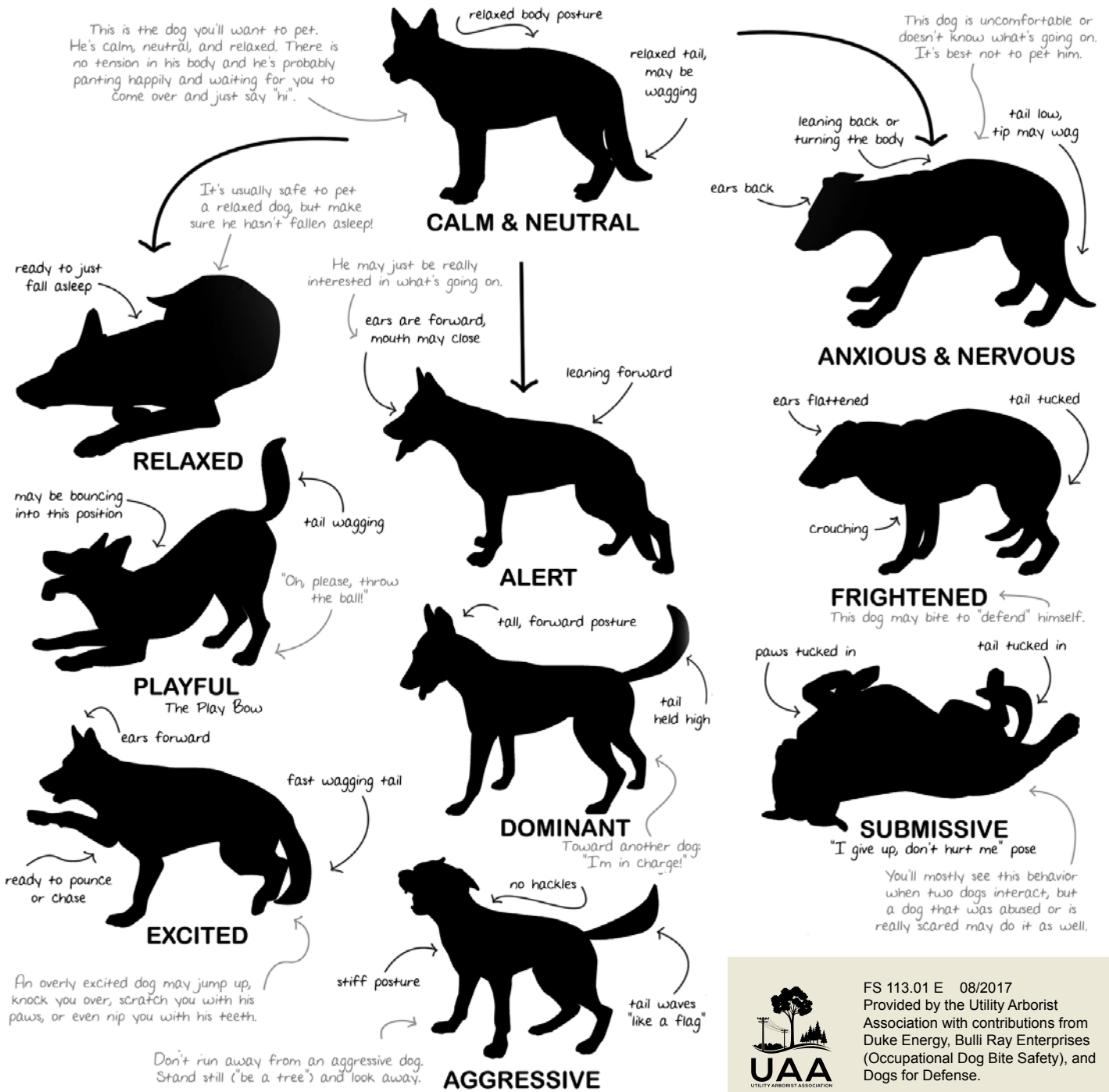
- Dogs do see in color and could respond defensively if confronted by the same color clothing as worn by a person that scared or hurt the dog (for example, high-visibility clothing).
- Multiple dogs can be very dangerous because dogs draw confidence from one another, and can attack when in a pack. Dogs

with their owners can also be dangerous because they will want to protect their owners, even if you do not intend to be a threat, you may be perceived as one.

In Case of a Dog Bite

If bitten, immediately report the bite to authorities. Broken skin will require a thorough washing and a doctor's visit, especially if a copy of the dog's shot record is unavailable.

Dog Body Language



FS 113.01 E 08/2017
 Provided by the Utility Arborist Association with contributions from Duke Energy, Bulli Ray Enterprises (Occupational Dog Bite Safety), and Dogs for Defense.