

The Stress Escalation Ladder

Extreme Level of Stress

Dog is forced to take action



Preparation to take Action



Low Level of Stress

Communication efforts to decrease stress levels and perceived aggressive

BITE

LUNGE

Preparing to Defend:

- Showing teeth
- Growling

FOCUS:

- Loss of calming signals
- Close mouth
- FREEZE

Stress Reactions:

- Panting
- Pupil dilation
- Shaking off adrenaline
- Sweating paws
- Trembling/shaking
- Whale eye
- Hackling

Calming signals:

- Yawning
- Lip licking
- Looking away
- Turning away
- Moving slowly

Displacement Behaviors:

- Sniffing the ground
- Scratching