

LADDER OF AGGRESSION



"The canine ladder of aggression illustrates the stages of communication a dog undergoes when experiencing stress. Think of this ladder as a visual guide to the escalating signals a dog may display. The lower rungs exhibit subtle signs of stress, appeasement, or avoidance. However, if the stress-triggering situation persists or intensifies, a dog may ascend the rungs, displaying increasingly aggressive behaviors.

Typically, dogs start at the bottom of the ladder, preferring non-aggressive communication. However, some dogs may begin at higher rungs or skip certain steps altogether. This variability can be influenced by factors such as the dog's past experiences, temperament, and overall well-being, including stress, pain, hunger, tiredness, and stimulation levels. Importantly, a dog's position on the ladder does not imply a dominant or submissive state but rather reflects its response to specific stressors."



Yawning, blinking, nose licking