

One of the keys to a successful therapy dog visit is knowing what your dog is communicating through their body language. Know your dog – not only when they are happy and ready to visit, but also when they are worried or nervous about something. Some dogs are very clear about their communication and other dogs are quieter and more reserved in their communication.



ATD Mission Statement:

We are an international registry of certified therapy dog teams. At ATD, we provide testing, certification, registration, support, and insurance for members who volunteer with their dogs in animal-assisted activities. Our objective is to form a network of caring individuals and their special dogs are willing to share smiles and joy with people, young and old alike.

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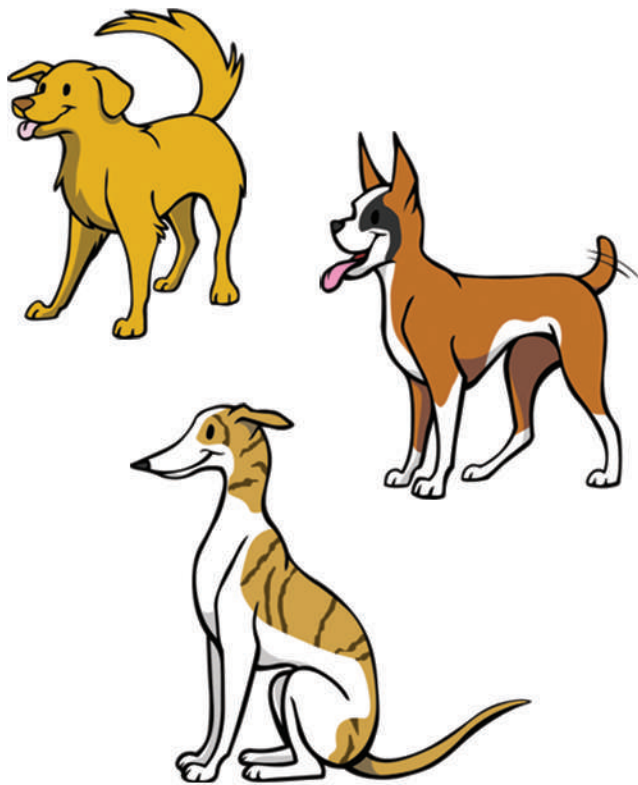
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sharing smiles and joy™

Therapy Dog Body Language





GREEN LIGHT

Loose, wiggly, comfortable tail carriage, relaxed, calm. Your dog is ready to visit!!!



YELLOW LIGHT

Furrowed brow, lip licking, inappropriate panting. Your dog is uncomfortable or unsure about something. Evaluate the environment and consider if this visit is the best option for your dog or what you need to change to support your dog.

RED LIGHT

Hiding behind you or things in the environment, body shaking, excessive shedding. Your dog is not ready for this visit. Your best option is to end the visit completely.



*This is not an inclusive list of body language and some dogs will not communicate using any of the behaviors we listed (they will use others instead) But all dogs communicate to us using their body language and it's up to us as their therapy dog partners to "listen" and support them to provide the best possible therapy dog visit for both your dog and those whom you are visiting.