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

- Turid Rugaas
The Canine 'Ladder of Aggression'

- Biting
- Snapping
- Growling
- Stiffening up, stare
- Lying down, leg up
- Standing crouched, tail tucked under
- Creeping, ears back
- Walking away
- Turning body away, sitting, pawing
- Turning head away
- Yawning, blinking, nose licking

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How a dog reacts to stress or threat