

# May/June 2014

## How Dogs Talk to Each Other

Dogs are social animals, and there is a universal language they share when communicating with other dogs. Next time you're at the dog park take a look at your pup's play to figure out what he's trying to say to his new friend:

**Play bow:** This means, "Let's play!" However, it can also be a sign of apology; it's a dog's way of saying, "Oops. I didn't mean to play so rough. Let's keep playing!"

**Paw slap:** This is like a human coming up and slapping you on the back. This gesture puts the dog at an awkward angle, so it's also a sign that the dog trusts the dog it is playing with.

**Rearing hind legs:** When dogs rear up on their hind legs, it's a sign of affection. It often looks like dancing when dogs do this together when they're playing.

**Biting:** Again, it's a sign of play. Most dogs are careful to avoid sensitive areas on the other pup.



# Campus Times

## Message in a Tail

A tail can be one of your pup's most expressive features. Pay attention to the signs and watch as your conversations grow stronger and stronger:

**Slight wag:** This indicates that the dog is relaxed but alert and is anticipating, ready to play.

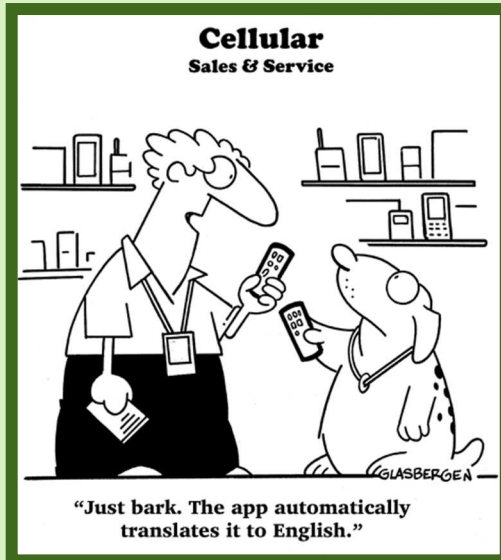
**Slow wag, tail slightly lowered:** This can indicate that the dog is confused and is asking for an explanation, or is investigating a non-threat.

**Slight trembling of the tail, erect:** This means that there is a challenge and the dog is displaying dominant behavior.

**Fierce and tail up:** This can indicate that the dog is feeling mischievous and inclined to bother and annoy you or a fellow canine! It could also signal swatting away another animal.

**Rapid wagging, tail in low position:** The dog is submissive. And ready to be rewarded.

**Slightly lowered tail, and still:** This indicates that the dog is alert and watching. If the tail is lowered and is barely moving, it can also indicate insecurity. If there is slight movement with a low tail, this can indicate that the dog is either sad or not feeling well.



Yuba demonstrates the play bow.



It's only a matter of time, really.



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## Cat got your tongue?

Campus Veterinary Clinic wants to encourage good communication skills when it comes to you and your kitty. Let's breakdown the language barrier and become fluent cat speak:

**Meow** is an all-purpose word. Your cat may be saying "meow" as a greeting ("Hey, how ya doin'?"), or a command ("I want up, I want down, More food now"), an objection ("Touch me at your own risk"), or even an announcement ("Look, I caught this mouse for you!").

**Chirps and trills** are how a mother cat tells her kittens to follow her. Aimed at you, it probably means your cat wants you to follow him, usually to his food bowl. If you have more than one cat, you'll often hear them converse with each other this way.

**Purring** is a sign of contentment (usually). Cats purr whenever they're happy, even while they're eating. Sometimes, however, a cat may purr when she's anxious or sick, using her purr to comfort herself, like a child sucking his thumb.

**Growling, hissing, or spitting** indicate a cat who is annoyed, frightened, angry, or aggressive. Leave this cat alone.

A **yowl or howl** (they sound like loud, drawn-out meows) tells you your cat is in some kind of distress—stuck in a

closet, looking for you, or in pain. Find your cat if he's making this noise. However, in unneutered and unspayed cats, these sounds are part of mating behavior (and can be a little alarming). If your cat is elderly, he may be suffering from a cognitive disorder, and may howl because he's disoriented.

**Chattering, chittering, or twittering** are the noises your cat makes when she's sitting in the window watching birds or squirrels. Some experts think that this is an exaggeration of the "killing bite," when a cat pounces and goes in for an attack. So if you see your kitty chattering by the window, he's could be getting ready to sink his teeth into whatever's got his attention.



## 4 Tips on Getting Your Kitty Comfy in Her Carrier

**1** - Start by making the carrier a part of her ordinary life. Leave the carrier in shared space with the door propped open. Put a small blanket or a pillow in the bottom, and toss in a catnip toy and treats.

**2** - Let her explore the carrier at her leisure: no stress, no drama. For extra de-stressing power, spray a little bit of Feliway to help relax her. **3** - Next, get your pet used to doing different



things in the carrier. Close the door while she's inside and leave the room for a few minutes. When you return, prop the carrier door open again. The goal here is to make your cat feel that the carrier is not a trap. Do this several times over the course of a week or so.

**4** - Close the door while she's inside and walk around the house with the carrier. Afterward, set it down, open the door, and reward. Soon, it'll be time to *take her for a ride*. Take short trips. Repeat for a few times and soon you'll be good to go... to *Campus Veterinary Clinic*!

## Signs Your Pet Needs Immediate Veterinary Attention

DIFFICULTY BREATHING		EYE PROBLEMS	
	BLEEDING		EXPOSURE TO TOXINS
PROBLEMS URINATING		SUDDEN LAMENESS	
	ABDOMINAL DISTRESS		LOSS OF APPETITE
FREQUENT VOMITING OR DIARRHEA		ANY SUDDEN BEHAVIORAL CHANGES	



### In Memoriam:

When Libby was rescued from the Berkeley Animal Shelter she was 9 months old and probably an abuse survivor as she was terrified of anything new or strange. She had a strong, gentle spirit and became an integral part of our family - engaged in agility training, vacations, and hikes. Libby was a constant companion for our fly-fishing adventures, from the time we got her until the last year of her life, when she was just too old and weak to participate. Those adventures took her through most of the western and Rocky Mountain States, with Montana and Idaho being her favorites. In this photo Libby is perched on the seat of our drift boat keeping a lookout for rising fish as we float down the Klamath River in Northern California. Everyone at *Campus Veterinary Clinic* gave Libby great care from puppyhood to her old age and helped her and us (her parents) through the many ups and downs of life, for which we are very grateful.

~ Liz Dodge & Libby

## HELP! This Month's Crisis Tips

**Q: Help! My pup wandered into the garage and took a sip of anti-freeze! What should I do?**

A: First thing's first, know what you're up against. A toxin called *ethylene glycol* makes antifreeze less lethal. It's sweet taste makes it particularly appealing after the first lap. It doesn't take much to cause fatal damage to the system; less than three ounces (or 88 ml) of antifreeze is sufficient to poison a medium-sized dog. Antifreeze poisoning affects the brain, liver, and kidneys.

Next, contact Campus Veterinary Clinic immediately.

We would treat this sort of crisis as an emergency and can see your pet ASAP. Bring the bottle of anti-freeze with you, or at least know the brand and type since different brands contain more or less *ethylene glycol*. Some contain none at all. Get a good estimate of when the ingestion occurred and how much he may have ingested. The more info you provide, the better we can assist.. Lastly, stay calm. Remember that animals read and feed off of our emotions. If you keep it together, so will your pooch!

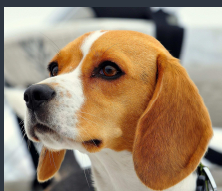




## **Breeds of the Month:**

### **Beagles**

Beagles will wander off if they catch an enticing smell

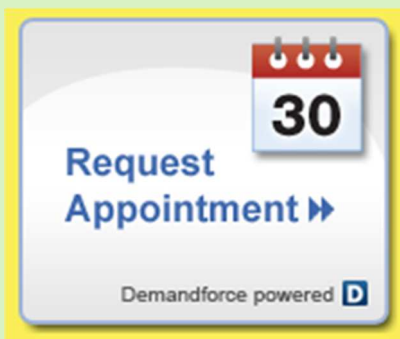


in the air. Their noses control their brains, and if they smell something interesting, nothing else exists in their world. Beagles are often turned over to rescue groups because either their owners or their neighbors get tired of their baying. Be prepared to work with your dog to control excessive barking and howling. Beagles are "chow hounds" and will overeat if given a chance. Monitor the amount of food you give them and be sure to keep your cupboards closed. Otherwise, your Beagle will sniff out the goods!

***Did You know...***

***You can now request appointments online!***

***Visit [campusveterinary.com](http://campusveterinary.com) and click on this icon:***



OR...

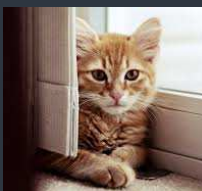


**... Find us on Facebook and click on the "Schedule Now" tab located in the toolbar:**

**Campus Times** May/June 2014

### **American Short Hair**

Known for their curiosity and activity, make



sure you spend time addressing your Cat's playfulness and his need for attention. A Short Hair is great for families with children or other animals. Affection and docility are some of its more well-known traits. Keep an eye on him, though, because the Short Hair is also known for his intelligence and fierce independence. Looking for a low maintenance friend? The shorthair is thought of to be healthy and hardy, which means fewer trips to the vet's office and more money in your pocket!

