

2008 Dog Resource Handbook Question Bank

Chapter 6 – Communication and Behavior

Below are a compilation of questions from Chapter 6. We will pull questions from this “question bank” that might be asked in the *You and Your Dog* and *Showmanship* interviews at the Ohio State Fair and post them at <http://southcenters.osu.edu/4h/dog> on June 1.

Q1. Name one characteristic of social animals.

A1. (1) live in packs; (2) travel in packs; (3) obey pack laws; (4) help each other; (5) follow a leader

P. 43

Q2. Is the pack leader a dominant or a submissive dog?

A2. Dominant dog

P. 43

Q3. What types of behaviors identify pack members’ roles?

A3. Dominant or submissive

P. 43

Q4. Why is it important to know a dog’s body language?

A4. So we can recognize the possible behavior or response the dog might have to a certain situation or environment.

P. 43

Q5. What is the dog called that most often initiates pack activity?

A5. Pack leader or alpha dog

P. 43

Q6. What shapes dog behaviors?

A6. The fact they are social and domesticated animals

P. 43

Q7. At what age do puppies develop their primary social attachments?

A7. Between about six and ten weeks of age

P. 43

Q8. During the first 12 to 16 weeks of a puppy’s life, what has the greatest impact on shaping his temperament and behavior?

A8. Socialization or lack of socialization *[must give both answers]*

P. 43

Q9. What three types of stimulation must be given to a puppy to properly socialize it?

A9. Physical, emotional, and mental stimulation

P. 43

Q10. Name _____ behavioral problems a poorly socialized dog may exhibit.

A10. (1) does not get along well with other animals; (2) does not get along well with strange humans; (3) self-mutilation; (4) scratching; (5) chewing; (6) biting; (7) destroying things; (8) obsessive barking; (9) tail chasing; (10) health problems; (11) aggression; (12) fearful; (13) avoidance behavior

P. 43

Q11. Name _____ ways dogs communicate.

A11. (1) vocalization, (2) visual communication or body postures, (3) smells and scents, (4) direct contact

P. 43

Q12. Why is it important to observe the total picture of a dog and its environment when interpreting what a dog is communicating?

A12. Because a dog does not express all ways of communicating in each situation; therefore, with one change in a signal, the dog's intent may change.

P. 43

Q13. Name _____ ways dogs vocalize.

A13. (1) bark; (2) growl; (3) howl; (4) whine; (5) whimper; (6) groan; (7) grunt; (8) yelp

P. 43

Q14. Name _____ reasons dogs bark.

A14 (1) convey a greeting; (2) announce a visitor; (3) solicit play; (4) threaten; (5) tracking; (6) hunting; (7) for defense

P. 43

Q15. Name _____ reasons a dog growls.

A15 (1) show aggression; (2) reinforce dominance; (3) during play

P. 43

Q16. Name _____ reasons dogs howl.

A16. (1) group vocalization; (2) seek companionship; (3) response to high pitched noises

P. 43

Q17. When dogs threaten other dogs, do they use a high pitched or low pitched vocalization?

A17. Low pitch

P. 43

- Q18. When do dogs generally use high pitched vocalizations?
A18. During greeting, playing and when acting submissive *[must answer all 3 for full points]*
P. 43
- Q19. Name _____ ways dogs communicate visually.
A19. (1) facial expressions; (2) positioning body; (3) positioning ears; (4) positioning tail
P. 44
- Q20. How does a submissive dog try to make himself appear?
A20. Smaller
P. 44
- Q21. How does a submissive dog makes himself appear smaller?
A21. (1) lies down; (2) crouches; (3) hunches over *[must answer all 3 for full points]*
P.44
- Q22. Name one way that a submissive dog makes himself appear smaller.
A22. (1) lies down; (2) crouches; (3) hunches over
P.44
- Q23. What types of eye contact does a submissive dog make?
A23. Little or no eye contact
P. 44
- Q24. How does an aggressive dog try to make himself appear?
A24. Larger
P. 44
- Q25. Name one way that an aggressive dog makes himself appear larger.
A25. (1) stands forward on his front feet; (2) raises his hackles
P. 44
- Q26. Name _____ communication behaviors of an aggressive dog.
A26. (1) stands forward on front feet; (2) raises hackles; (3) tenses body; (4) growls or vocalizes in low-pitched tone; (5) direct, fixed stare
P. 44
- Q27. Name 3 things that may cause the signs indicating a dog's posture to vary?
A27. (1) dog's breed; (2) dogs health; (3) dog's condition; (4) intensity of play; (5) submission; (6) dominance
P. 44

Q28. What is another word for the relaxed posture?

A28. Baseline

P. 44

Q29. Why is it important to know a dog's baseline or relaxed posture?

A29. Because a dog's natural body posture serves as a foundation for determining other behaviors.

P. 44

Q30. What is a dog's natural body posture called?

A30. Either relaxed or baseline body posture

P. 44

Q31. Name _____ body postures.

A31. (1) Relaxed or baseline; (2) alert; (3) play bow; (4) active submission; (5) passive submission; (6) offensive threat; (7) defensive threat

P. 44-46

Q32. Name the two types of submissive body postures.

A32. Active and Passive

P. 45

Q33. Name the two types of threatening body postures.

A33. Offensive and Defensive

P. 45

Q34. What type of body posture invites other dogs to play?

A34. Play bow

P. 45

Q35. A dog that shows complete submission is exhibiting what type of body posture?

A35. Passive Submission

P. 45

Q36. What type of body posture does a dog that is very afraid of confrontation exhibit?

A36. Passive Submission

P. 45

Q37. What type of body posture does a dog show when he is threatening and is ready to make the first move?

A37. Offensive Threat

P. 46

- Q38. Which threatening body posture does a dog exhibit who is very confident and dominant if confronted?
A38. Offensive Threat
P. 46
- Q39. What threatening body posture does a dog exhibit who is afraid and may attack if pressed?
A39. Defensive Threat
P. 46
- Q40. Why do people think dogs showing a defensive threat behavior are harmless?
A40. They read them wrong, looking at their facial expressions and thinking they are harmless. They do not look at the rest of the dog.
P. 46
- Q41. Which body posture is the most dangerous?
A41. Defensive Threat
P. 46
- Q42. Which posture is assumed by fear-biters?
A42. Defensive Threat
P. 46
- Q43. What type of behavior do dogs exhibit when they are in defensive threat posture?
A43. Fear or submission and aggression
P. 46
- Q44. True or False. A dog's sense of smell is more developed than in any other domestic species of animal.
A44. True
P. 46
- Q45. Name one way in which a dog produces scents.
A45. (1) in urine; (2) in feces; (3) in anal sac secretions
P. 46
- Q46. What is stress?
A46. The body's reaction to changes in the environment
P. 47
- Q47. When does stress have a negative influence on an animal?
A47. When it becomes overwhelming – too great to handle
P. 47

Q48. What is it called when stress becomes overwhelming?

A48. Distress

P.47

Q49. Name _____ behavioral responses to stress.

A49. (1) inappropriate chewing; (2) aggression; (3) unexplained house soiling; (4) self-mutilation; (5) fearfulness; (6) barking; (7) whining; (8) excessive vocalizations

P. 47

Q50. Why is it important to be aware of your dogs stress levels?

Q51. To make sure that their exposure to situations or environments is healthy.

P. 47

Q51. True or False. Dominant dogs are usually more shy and anxious in new surroundings.

A51. False

P. 47

Q52. Are signs of stress and signs of fear many times the same? Yes or No

A52. Yes

P. 47

Q53. Name one reason why it is important to learn the signs of stress in your dog.

A53. (1) so he can learn easier; (2) so he will be less aggressive; (3) to keep him healthier

P. 47

Q54. Name _____ signs of stress in a dog.

A54. (1) whining; (2) excessive vocalizations; (3) raised hackles; (4) dilated pupils; (5) turning head away; (6) avoiding eye contact; (7) shaking; (8) excessive shedding; (9) excessive dandruff; (10) sweaty paws; (11) refusal to eat; (12) diarrhea; (13) vomiting; (14) hiding; (15) distracted; (16) restless; (17) inappropriate urination; (18) inappropriate defecation

P. 47-48

Q55. Define calming signal.

A55. A stress-reducing behavior a dog uses to attempt to calm themselves and each other in stressful situations

P. 48

Q56. Name one reason dogs use calming signals.

A56. (1) to maintain a healthy social hierarchy; (2) to decrease a threat; (3) to encourage an approach; (4) to prevent stress from leading to distress

P. 48

Q57. Name _____ common calming signals.

A57. (1) turning head to side, then either right back or holding it to side; (2) turning away; (3) freezing in place; (4) yawning; (5) exaggerated slow movements; (6) splitting up dogs or people; (7) sitting down; (8) lying down with belly to ground; (9) play position; (10) sniffing; (11) wagging tail

P. 48

Q58. Name one thing a dog might do if you stare at him.

A58. (1) break a stay and come to you; (2) he may be threatened and attack; (3) he may look away from your stare to tell you he is not a threat

P. 48

Q59. Name three ways you can communicate with your dog.

A59. (1) facial expressions; (2) body movements; (3) tone of voice

P. 48

Q60. Why is it important for your body language and tone of voice to match?

A60. So you send your dog a clear message, and he doesn't get mixed messages.

P. 48

Q61. What tone of voice should you use when praising your dog?

A61. High pitch and happy

P. 48-49

Q62. What tone of voice should you use when correcting your dog?

A62. A low growling tone

P. 49

Q63. If your dog is misbehaving and you yell at your dog in a high pitch, what kind of message are you sending your dog?

A63. You are telling your dog that he what he is doing is okay, so he will probably keep on doing it.

P. 49

Q64. Why is it important to give an insecure dog a command in a firm tone of voice?

A64. To decrease his level of fear and help him think things are okay.

P. 49

Q65. You don't want your dog to chew your shoes so you put them where he can't get them. You don't want your dog to get into the trash, so you put the trash can where he can't reach it. What is this called?

A65. Managing his environment

P. 49

- Q66. How can you shape your dog's behavior?
A66. Manage his environment; reward behaviors you want repeated; ignore behaviors you want him to stop
P. 49
- Q67. How do dogs discipline another pack member?
A67. By using body language or tone of voice
P. 49
- Q68. Name one way to set your dog up for being successful.
A68. (1) manage his environment; (2) carefully select your responses to his actions
P. 49
- Q69. Depending on the situation, describe one way to correct your dog if needed.
A69. (1) look him in the eye and use a growling tone of voice to reprimand him; (2) grasp his collar on both sides of the dog's neck, lift his front paws off the ground, and scold him in a firm, deep voice; (3) use a quick pop and release of the slip collar if dog is lunging after another something/someone he shouldn't.
P. 49
- Q70. Who are the most common victims of dog bites?
A70. Children
P. 50
- Q71. What is the age range of children who receive the highest incidence of dog bites?
A71. Children ages 5-9
P. 50
- Q72. Where does the highest percentage of dog attacks occur?
A72. At the person's home
P. 50
- Q73. Who do the majority of dogs that bite someone belong to?
A73. The victim's family or friends
P. 50
- Q74. Describe _____ ways of making every effort to prevent dogs from biting people.
A74. (1) keep dogs with a history of aggression away from children; (2) properly socialize the dog; (2) properly train the dog; (3) use caution when introducing a dog into the home of an infant or toddler; (4) never leave a dog alone with an infant, toddler or young children; (5) spay or neuter the dog; (6) learn how to be safe around dogs and teach others; (7) always walk a dog on a leash; (8) do not play tug-of-war and rough games with a dog; (9) never tie a dog in a yard where children can enter; (10) do not run, scream, or play rough with friends around a

dog; (11) never approach a strange dog, with or without its owner; (12) never approach a dog confined in a car, tied up, behind a fence; (13) never disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, with puppies, or guarding something; (14) never approach a loose dog.

P. 50-51

Q75. What should you do if you see a stray dog or a dog showing strange behaviors?

A75. Report it to an adult.

P. 50

Q76. Why should you never disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, guarding something or has puppies?

A76. Dogs naturally protect their food, owners and property, and may attack if disturbed or their property is threatened.

P. 51

Q77. Why should you never make eye contact with a strange dog, or a dog that is showing dominant, fearful, or aggressive behaviors?

A77. When you stare at a dog you are showing your dominance. This may threaten an already distressed or aggressive dog, causing him to attack.

P. 51

Q78. What might happen if you surprise or startle a dog?

A78. He might bite.

P. 51

Q79. Why should you never scream and run if approached by a dog?

A79. Screaming and/or running can excite a dog. They are prey animals and their prey instinct tells them to chase and catch something that is running away.

P. 51

Q80. If approached by a dog you should “stand like a tree.” Describe and show how to do this.

A80. Stop, don't run. Stand straight with your feet together. Put your fists under your neck and elbows into your chest. Do not make eye contact with the dog. Look away and lower your head. Stay there until the dog walks away. Then slowly back up to a safe place.

P. 51

Q81. What should you do if you are knocked down by a dog?

A81. Put your legs together, curl into a ball and lay still. Put your fists covering the back of your neck and your arms over your ears. Lay there quietly until the dog goes way.

P. 51

Q82. True or False. A barking dog will never bite.

A82. False

P. 51

Q83. How can you block an attack from a dog?

A83. Use your backpack, purse, jacket, bicycle or anything else that can keep the dog's teeth away from you as a shield between you and the dog.

P. 51

Q84. What do the initials CGC stand for?

A84. Canine Good Citizen

P. 51

Q85. Describe the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen® Program.

A85. It is a two-part certification program that (1) stresses responsible pet ownership for owners and (2) that certifies that dogs have the training and behaviors needed to be reliable and well-behaved at home and in their community.

P. 51

Q86. What breeds of dogs are eligible to take the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test?

A86. All purebred and mixed breed dogs

P. 51

Q87. The American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test is a competitive like the other AKC events are. True or False

A87. False

P. 51

Q87. If puppies take the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test, they should be retested when they are adult dogs. True or False

A87. True

P. 51

Q88. Responsible dog owners should have their dogs take the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test every _____ years to make sure they are still reliable and well mannered.

A88. Every two (2) years

P. 51

- Q89. Name the _____ American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen® test items.
- A89. (1) accepting a friendly stranger; (2) sitting politely for petting; (3) appearance and grooming; (4) out for a walk [also walking on a loose leash]; (5) walking through a crowd; (6) sit and down on command/staying in place; (7) coming when called; (8) reaction to another dog; (9) reaction to distractions; (10) supervised separation

P. 52