

A GUIDE TO

BRINGING YOUR

Bolognese

HOME



Let us help you prepare for your puppy before she arrives for a successful transition!

➤ puppy proofing ➤ grooming ➤ potty training ➤ tear stains
and more!



AMERICAN
BOLOGNESE
— CLUB —

Keeping Your Bolo Safe

Puppies are like human toddlers-active, mobile, and curious! Take the time now, before that special pup gets home, to find the potential hazards and educate yourself about poisonous foods!

Puppy Proofing 101

Get a new perspective!

Crawl around your house on your hands and knees to see what your Bolo might find interesting!

The Home: Inside and Outside

Set your puppy up for success BEFORE you even bring her home by doing the following:



Know which plants are toxic. Put them out of reach or remove them.



Keep all medications in a safe area.



Tie up loose electrical cords and keep them out of sight. (computers, lamps, etc.)



Dogs are scent-oriented. To keep your clothes and pup safe, keep clothes picked up.



Check your outdoor fence to see there are any spots a puppy can squeeze through.



Eliminate possible poisons. (Chemicals, pesticides, cleaning supplies, dangerous foods.)

New Puppy Checklist

Prepare and protect your Bolognese before they come home!

PUPPY PROOF THE HOME

- Identify/Remove/Fence off the toxic plants
- Learn about the foods that are toxic to dogs
- Tie up loose cords
- Check your yard fence
- Eliminate possible poisons

DECIDE WHAT ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO PURCHASE

- Food–Talk with your breeder.
- Bowls–Glass bowls are best!
- Crate (for crate training)
- X–Pen for boundaries when allowed to roam
- Gates for boundaries when allowed to roam
- Dog bed
- Potty pads–The washable human pads are great!
- Toys and chew toys
- Harness or collar and leash
- Grooming tools
- Enzyme Spray for potty mistakes–My Pet Peed is amazing!



SET UP A VET APPOINTMENT

- Interview several vets, if necessary

MEET WITH FAMILY MEMBERS

- Discuss the importance of a schedule, how to play with a dog, and each member's role in the daily life of the puppy. Go over the toxic plants and foods to avoid vet emergencies.

Poison Control for Dogs and Cats

People Food

Safe*

- Apples
- Bananas
- Blueberries
- Bread
- Broccoli (cooked)
- Cantaloupe
- Carrots (cooked)
- Chicken and turkey (cooked)
- Eggs (cooked)
- Green beans (cooked)
- Milk/cheese (if pet is not lactose intolerant)
- Oatmeal (cooked)
- Peas (cooked)
- Pumpkin (cooked)
- Salmon (cooked)



Unsafe

- Alcohol
- Avocado
- Chocolate, coffee and caffeine
- Citrus
- Coconut water
- Grapes and raisins
- Macadamia nuts
- Milk/cheese (if pet is lactose intolerant)
- Nuts
- Onions, garlic and chives
- Raw/undercooked meat, eggs and bones
- Raw yeast dough
- Salt and salty snack foods
- Xylitol

Common Houseplants

Safe

- African violet
- Air plant
- Bamboo
- Boston fern
- Cast iron plant
- Christmas cactus
- Haworthia
- Herbs (basil, sage, thyme)
- Palms (**NOT sago palm**)
- Phalaenopsis orchids
- Spider plant
- Wax plant



Unsafe

- Aloe vera
- Asparagus fern
- Corn plant
- Cyclamen
- Dieffenbachia
- Elephant ear
- English ivy
- Herbs (lavender, oregano)
- Jade
- Lilies
- Philodendron
- Sago palm

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435

* Although these foods are safe for dogs & cats, please only offer as an occasional snack & in moderation.



THE FIRST VET

appointment

Make an appointment with your vet for 1-2 days after you bring your puppy home. Most breeders require that you do this. They will get to know your pup and give them a good check up.

If you don't have a vet, ask your friends who they use and don't be afraid to visit and interview them. You want someone you trust and can talk to.

Take the written record of the vaccinations your puppy has received from your breeder along with you

No Puppy Zones

Setting Boundaries for Puppies

Dogs depend on us for protection and direction. We know if we let a puppy run around on it's own it will usually potty somewhere or chew something inappropriate. **The first rule of thumb when getting a puppy is limiting the spaces that they can roam freely until they are trained.**

Keeping a vigilant eye on your puppy not only allows you to intercept any indoor accidents before they happen but also enables you to understand and respond to your puppy's signals for needing to go outside. This attentive watchfulness is crucial in the early stages of training, as it helps to quickly establish good habits and prevents the formation of bad ones. A puppy parent that understands this, will set the puppy up for success by giving them an area that they can roam free when consistent supervision isn't possible.

Many pet parents use a mixture of dog crates, x-pens, and dog gates to train their pups, set boundaries, or contain them for their comfort/safety. Some pups love to sleep and relax in their crates, other pups might need a gate to protect them from dangers like stairs.

Confinement isn't punishment and isn't intended to be. This isn't used as I'm-mad-at-you-and-I-failed-at-supervising-you-so-now-you-have-to-be-tossed-into-your-crate! Boundary training, when done properly, yields great results while also helping your dog learn to be confined and remain calm and relaxed while doing so.

What Are Dog Crates?

Dog crates, sometimes called kennels, are a safe and contained area that a dog can reside in for short bursts of time. These containers are big enough to hold a puppy but small enough that it isn't roaming around. Crates have many uses, the most common being:

1. Security. Many dogs see their crate as a source of security and comfort that they can seek respite in throughout the day.
2. Training. Crates can be a great aid in teaching a pup how to stay home alone.
3. Traveling. Dog crates can be used for travel purposes to keep a pup safe on long car rides or contained for flying.

Why Dog X-Pens and Gates?

X-Pens and gates allow more freedom and a bigger area to walk around and play, while also containing the puppy to an approved, safe place. **Pet parents often choose to place puppies in x-pens with food, water, toys, & potty pads when home alone for a few hours.**

Gates are often used to block puppies from entering unsafe areas like house renovations, steep stairways, swimming pools, etc.

Potty Training Tips

- 1 Be attentive and be aware of their body language and clues they give you. If you see them sniffing around, quickly take them outside.
- 2 Develop a schedule. Take your puppy outside after eating, after playtime, and anytime he wakes up.
- 3 Reward with playtime and lots of praise.
- 4 Use the same keyword or phrase when taking the dog potty. "Go potty." "Go hurry up." Also, carrying them to the same spot each time seems to help.
- 5 Stay away from punishment. Dogs need to be taught what you want them to do. Think about what you can do differently to prevent accidents.
- 6 Be patient. Don't try to rush your dog or create negative associations with going potty like rubbing their nose in it.
- 7 Family members must be consistent with trips outside and praise.
- 8 Put your dog in his x-pen confinement area as discussed above.
- 9 Set limits using baby gates, closed doors, and other barriers to prevent your dog from exploring things and getting into (or out of) places that you don't want them to.

Potty training takes time. The entire family must be committed to this process. Buy a spray that has enzymes in it to spray and clean accidents. The most important tip is that you take them out OFTEN.



PUPPY SCHEDULES?

Yes, puppy schedules. By scheduling meals, walks, playtime and other activities in a daily routine, you and your puppy will be your way to success in crate/potty training. Notice the strategic potty time after eating and play? There's a reason for that! Here are some examples of puppy schedules that can help the whole family get involved.

Tips to potty train a puppy

© www.dog-training-excellence.com



Puppies need to go potty more often than adult dogs, follow this guideline:

2 Months	—————	👉	2-3 Hrs.
Every additional month	—————	👉	Add 1 Hr.
6 Months and beyond	—————	👉	6-8 Hrs.

Always take your puppy out for potty time after the following events:



Right after a meal.

Immediately after sleeping.



After a playtime session.

Don't forget to praise him for pottying outside!

Why are you upset?
don't know what I did wrong..



Never punish your puppy for a potty accident.



If you didn't see it happen, it is **too late** to punish.



If you see it happening, calmly but firmly say "HaHA!" and immediately take your pooch outside to finish his business.



PUPPY CRATE TRAINING SCHEDULE

@dogtrainingexcellence

WHAT TO DO?

FOR HOW LONG?

01.	WAKE UP AND IMMEDIATELY TAKE PUPPY OUT FOR POTTY	15 MIN (DON'T PLAY JUST WAIT FOR PUPPY TO PEE).
02.	STAY OUTSIDE AND PLAY WITH PUPPY OR LET HIM EXPLORE	15-30 MIN
03.	TO EAT! (FOOD & WATER) + DIGESTION TIME (IN CRATE OR SUPERVISED)	30 MIN (USE INTERACTIVE TOY, NOT FOOD BOWL)
04.	TAKE PUPPY OUTSIDE FOR POTTY	15 MIN (DON'T PLAY JUST WAIT FRO PUPPY TO PEE)
05.	OUTSIDE OR INSIDE PLAY WITH PUPPY (TUG, FETCH, CHASE, ETC.)	10-20 MIN
06.	BACK TO CRATE FOR REST OR CHEW TIME	1-2 HOURS (PROVIDE CHEW TOY, STUFFED KONG, ETC.)

SCHEDULE EXAMPLE

MORNING

7:00	OUT FOR POTTY
7:15	PLAYTIME
7:30	FEEDING
8:00	OUT FOR POTTY
8:15	PLAY TIME
9:00	IN THE CRATE
11:00	OUT FOR POTTY
11:15	PLAYTIME
11:30	FEEDING
12:00	OUT FOR POTTY
12:15	PLAYTIME
12:30	IN THE CRATE

AFTERNOON

2:30	OUT FOR POTTY
2:45	PLAYTIME
3:00	FEEDING
3:30	OUT FOR POTTY
3:45	PLAY TIME
4:00	IN THE CRATE
6:00	OUT FOR POTTY
6:15	PLAYTIME
6:30	FEEDING
7:00	OUT FOR POTTY
7:15	PLAYTIME
7:30	IN THE CRATE

EVENING

9:30	OUT FOR POTTY
9:45	PLAYTIME
10:00	FEEDING
10:30	OUT FOR POTTY
10:45	PLAY TIME
11:00	IN THE CRATE





For the love of the breed: A word from *Marsha England*

founder of the ABC

Preserving the Bolognese begins with protecting its distinctive, rustic, and natural appearance. Proper grooming is not about trends - it is about honoring the breed's history and integrity.

Thoughtful grooming maintains the Bolognese's authentic expression and soft outline. When people encounter a Bolognese that looks true to its heritage, curiosity follows. That curiosity opens the door to education and appreciation for this rare Italian companion breed.

For families who prefer a companion (shorter) cut, guidance is available on our website. With simple adjustments - keeping the body shorter while allowing the ear and tail furnishings to remain longer - owners can maintain a practical style while still respecting the breed's natural character.

Every well-groomed Bolognese represents the breed as a whole. Thank you for helping preserve its beauty and legacy.

The Bolognese Coat

The correct structure of the coat is essential. A natural, rustic appearance is key: Over-grooming can destroy the breed's charm. The coat should look natural and not overly styled, unlike the Maltese or Bichon Frisé.

The Bolognese coat consists of two types of hair:

- Primary hairs: These are slightly thicker and coarser.
- Secondary hairs: These are soft, woolly, and more prone to breakage

The black arrows show the thicker, harder and glossy hair.



The signature crinkled texture of the Bolognese coat is achieved when the secondary woolly hairs gather around the primary hairs.

If you are planning on showing, feel free to contact the ABC for some tips on the grooming process.



The Convenience Cut

Head: The head coat should flow seamlessly into the ears, with no visible break between the two. This contributes to the soft, natural expression that defines the breed. While some separation may occur naturally as the coat grows, excessive trimming should be avoided. Minimal use of chunker shears can help maintain a rustic, unsculpted appearance.

Face: The Bolognese is naturally an untrimmed-faced breed. While light trimming may be done on companion dogs for ease of care, preserving the natural facial expression is preferred. The bridge and sides of the nose should never be shaved, as this alters the breed's characteristic look.

Ears: The ears should appear long, full, and natural, with no visible trimming lines. The ear coat should blend into the neck and chest, contributing to the overall soft outline.

Stomach: Light thinning may be done underneath to reduce matting, particularly where friction occurs. This should not affect the outer appearance of the coat.

Body: Maintain at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of coat over most of the body for a companion cut, preserving a soft, natural outline.

Tail: The tail coat is left long and natural, enhancing the breed's overall balance and expression.



The Companion Cut



Using chunker shears sparingly on the head can help maintain the natural, rustic look.

The coat on the head should flow seamlessly into the ears.

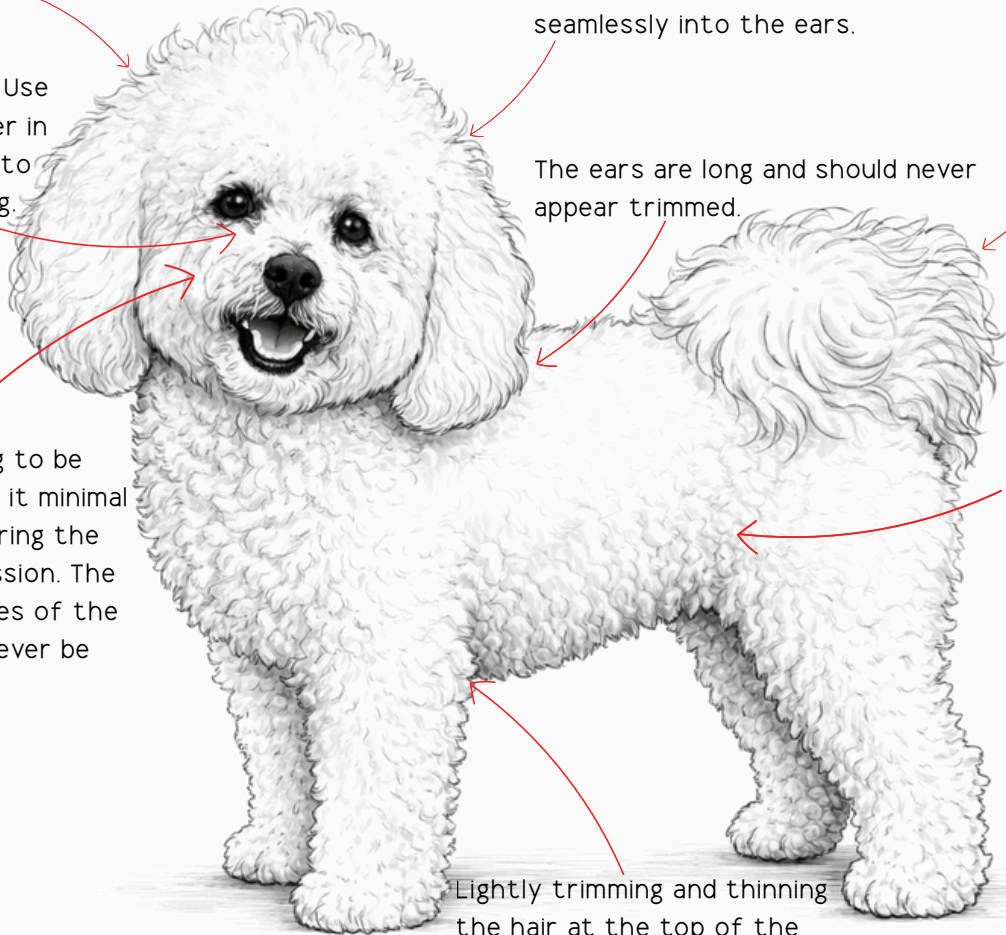
Leave tail long and natural.

Wipe eyes daily. Use Eye Envy powder in corner of eyes to prevent staining.

The ears are long and should never appear trimmed.

If face is going to be trimmed, keep it minimal and avoid altering the natural expression. The bridge and sides of the nose should never be shaved.

$\frac{3}{4}$ inch of coat over most of the body is a good length for easy grooming.



Lightly trimming and thinning the hair at the top of the front legs where it rubs against the body helps prevent matting.



How to Get That Bolo Groom

The Exhibitor's Groom

The key to this show ring look is to keep the dog looking "as natural as possible".

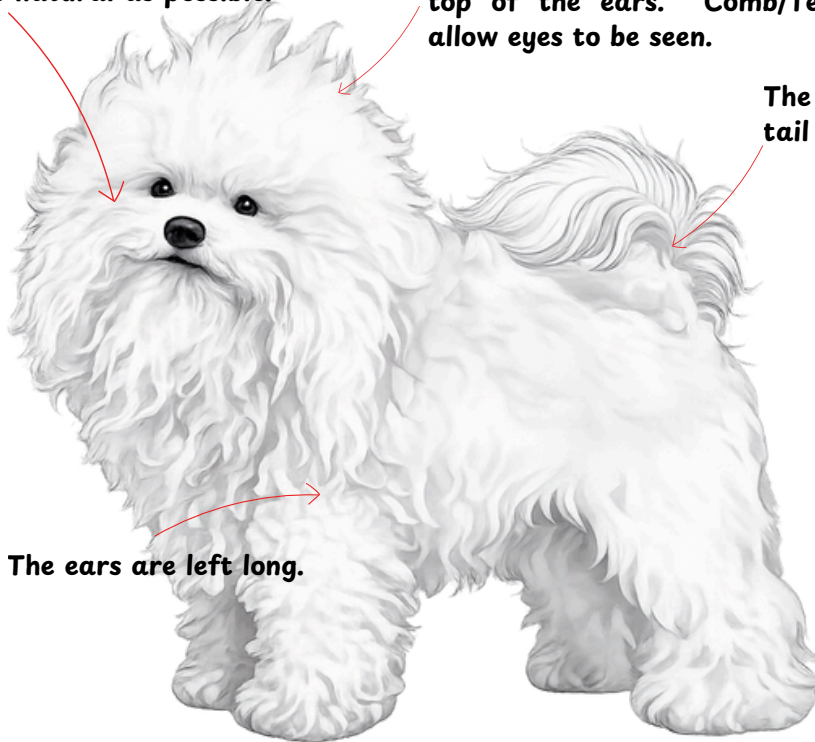
Please do not scissor the coat for a overly-groomed look for exhibition.

**Note-The curl will have more consistency in the adult subject, than in the puppy.

Keep the face as natural as possible.

Leave coat on head longer than body. The hair on the head should flow right into the top of the ears. Comb/Tease upward to allow eyes to be seen.

The hair on the tail is left long.



The ears are left long.

Each Bolognese is different, but if trimming is needed, it should be done about a month before exhibiting so the coat retains its natural, rustic appearance.

Don't cut the hair around the eyes. Comb the hair around the nose and between the eyes downward as it grows.



It is advised to let the dog's coat air dry rather than blow-dry it to maintain its natural texture for shows. Between shows, you may brush the coat out to prevent it from tangles and knots.

The Exhibitor's Groom

Head: The coat on the head should flow right into the top of its ears. You should not be able to tell where the hair on the head ends and the ears begin. When exhibiting, the hair should be brushed back/upward.

Eyes & Nose: Do not cut any hair around the eyes or the bridge of the nose. As the hair grows, comb it down and let it grow long. The coat on the head should be brushed upward so that the eyes are seen when exhibiting the dog.

Ears: The hair on the ears is long and flows into the neck/upper chest hair. You should not be able to tell where the ears begin or end.

Chest: The chest hair should remain long. Muzzle hair under the chin and ear hair should flow smoothly into the chest hair.

Body: The hair on the body is left long. When the tail is curved over the back, it gives the appearance of a straight topline.

Tail: The hair on the tail should look uncut and long.



Cocchetti, F. (2020, April 30). Bolognese: Sessione didattica ENCI [PowerPoint presentation]. Ente Nazionale della Cinofilia Italiana (ENCI).

AVOID

IN THE RING:

- Yellow markings on the coat
- Coats without ringlet (keeping in mind age, e.g., puppies)
- Bolognese that are over-groomed or have coat brushed straight
- Artificial cosmetics
- Topknots, clips, rubber bands, etc.

Advice from European Exhibitors



Fredrika Rönquist, breeder & exhibitor at **Hunky-Dory Kennel** in Sweden, combs her dogs out before the bath. Her comb of choice is the pink HP Sprenger comb. She then allows the dog to dry naturally.



Fredrika's Favorite Supplies

She assisted us in compiling a list of recommended products available in the U.S. that she personally uses and trusts. For maintenance baths, she prefers Tauro Pro Line Intense Hydrate, and for show preparation, she uses additional products from the Tauro Pro Line. She speaks highly of the Tauro slicker brush, noting that it is exceptionally effective, anti-static, and gentle on the skin. Their combs are also excellent for managing the Bolognese coat.



- GENTLE SCRUB SHAMPOO
- INTENSE HYDRATE SHAMPOO
- ULTRA NATURAL CARE INTENSE HYDRATE MASK



[TAURO PRO LINE ULTRA NATURAL CARE DETANGLING LEAVE-IN CONDITIONER](#)



- GENTLE SCRUB SHAMPOO
- KERATIN & GLOSS SHAMPOO
- KERATIN & GLOSS CONDITIONER

[TAURO PRO LINE ERGONOMIC NON-SLIP, WOODEN ROUND SLICKER](#)



[TAURO PRO LINE BRUSH, PEAR WOOD 27 MM TEETH](#)



[TAURO PRO LINE COMB](#)

Advice from European Exhibitors

Jessie Manders, a breeder and exhibitor from Little White Wonder in the Netherlands, utilizes the grooming tools displayed in the photo below.



JACKIE "KRISTA"
LITTLE WHITE WONDER KENNEL

While air-drying produces the desirable exhibition "curls," it also increases the likelihood of tangles and knots. Therefore, Jessie advises brushing and blow-drying the coat for easier maintenance between shows.



MARTE TORRE DELLE PASSERE

TOENAIL CLIPPERS

ACTIVET
BRUSH

PIN
BRUSH

SLICKER
BRUSH

DETANGLING
FINISHING
SPRAY
GROOMING TABLE

WIDE TOOTH
COMB

Let's Talk Tear Stains

[BY RHIANNON KOEHLER, DVM](#)

[PUBLISHED APR. 11, 2023](#)

What Are Tear Stains on Dogs?

Tear stains on dogs are reddish-brown stains that extend from the inside corner of the eye onto or down the sides of the dog's muzzle.

Tear stains are problematic for many reasons: They can signal an underlying health condition, they can lead to infection if they aren't cleaned, and they can be unsightly for pet parents.

What Causes Tear Stains on Dogs?

In both humans and our canine companions, tears typically drain from the eyes to the inside of the nose through something called the nasolacrimal duct. This is what causes your nose to run when your eyes get teary!

While our pets don't typically cry tears when they're sad, they still have these same ducts passing tears from their eyes to their nose. Dog tear stains are typically caused by variations in the eyelid structure that cause tears to drain onto the face instead of down the nasolacrimal duct.

While it's possible that your dog could have a blocked nasolacrimal duct or a condition that's causing excessive tear production, most dogs with tear stains don't have an underlying eye problem. That said, contact your veterinarian if your pet did not previously have tear stains and is now developing them.

The characteristic reddish-brown color of dog tear stains is caused by an iron-containing dye molecule called porphyrin. When the body breaks down red blood cells, porphyrin is released. This molecule is excreted in the bile, tears, saliva, and urine of dogs. When excessive amounts of tears are released from the eyes, the porphyrin in the tears will stain the fur.

How To Remove Tear Stains From Dogs

Removing tear stains from dogs can take a bit of experimentation to find what works best for your pet, and there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. Before attempting to remove tear stains, it's important that underlying medical conditions are ruled out. If a medical condition is suspected, follow your veterinarian's recommendations for removing the tear stains and treating your pet's condition.

Let's Talk Tear Stains

Most puppies experience some degree of tear staining, especially during teething when they may produce more tears.

Causes:

1. Developing tear ducts: Young puppies often have immature tear ducts, leading to tear overflow.
2. Teething: The discomfort of teething can cause increased tear production.
3. Eye irritation: Allergies, debris in the eye, or even certain eye shapes can irritate the eyes and cause tearing.

THINGS THAT HAVE WORKED BOLOGNESE OWNERS:

- Clean the area daily and keep dry
- Feed and water using glass bowls
- Change food brands or proteins, chicken in particular
- Give probiotics
- Use filtered water

A Typical Daily Grooming Routine

Eyes: Gently wipe around the eyes with saline and cotton rounds or a soft cloth. Comb the area and use Eye Envy powder to keep the area dry.



Teeth: Brush regularly using a dog toothbrush, dental pads, or an approved water additive.

Ears: Wipe the inside flap with a fragrance-free wipe. Do not insert anything deep into the ear canal.

Body: Lightly mist with leave-in conditioner and line brush daily to prevent matting.



YOUR DOG'S BODY LANGUAGE CAN HELP YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THEY ARE FEELING

A happy dog

A dog who is happy will be relaxed.

1

Dog has a relaxed body posture, smooth hair, mouth open and relaxed, ears in natural position, wagging tail, eyes normal shape.



2

Dog is inviting play with bottom raised, smooth hair, high wagging tail, eyes normal shape, ears in natural position, may be barking excitedly.



3

Dog's weight is distributed across all four paws, smooth hair, tail wagging, face is interested and alert, relaxed and mouth open.

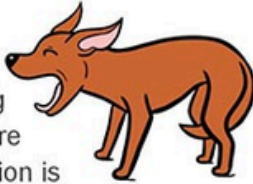


A worried dog

These dogs are telling you that they are uncomfortable and don't want you to go near them.

1

Dog is standing but body posture and head position is low. Tail is tucked under, ears are back and dog is yawning.



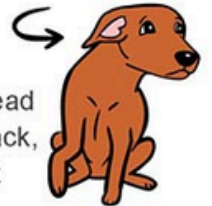
2

Dog is lying down and avoiding eye contact or turning head away from you and lip licking and ears are back.



3

Dog is sitting with head lowered, ears are back, tail tucked away, not making eye contact, yawning, raising a front paw.



An angry or very unhappy dog

These dogs are not happy and want you to stay away or go away.

1

Dog is standing with a stiffened body posture, weight forward, ears are up, hair raised, eyes looking at you – pupils dark and enlarged, tail is up and stiff, wrinkled nose.



2

Dog is lying down covering, ears flat, teeth showing, tail down between legs.



3

Dog is standing with body down and weight towards the back, head is tilted upwards, mouth tight, lips drawn back, teeth exposed, eyes staring, ears back and down, snarling.



We hope this guide helps to prepare you for the arrival of your new puppy. Stay in touch with your breeder. They are your most valuable asset for help and questions that you might have. The most important thing your puppy needs from you is love and time with you and your family. They will make a special place in your heart!

This guide is provided to you by:
The American Bolognese Club



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americanbologneseclub.com/membership