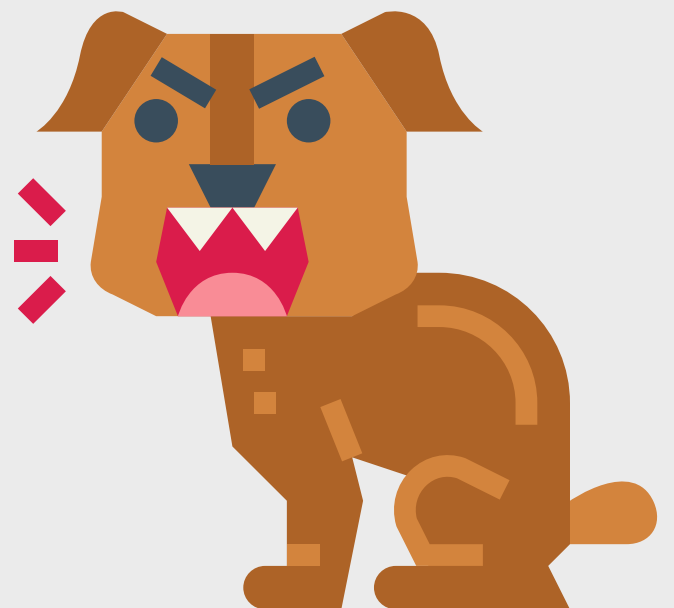




# Changing An Established Behaviour



**ANIMAL  
BEHAVIOUR  
KENT**

# CHANGING AN ESTABLISHED BEHAVIOUR

When changing an established behaviour, it is important to remember the neural pathway that triggers this unwanted response is likely to be strong, especially if the behaviour is fear based.

Much like a path formed in the long grass, the response (e.g., growling or biting) becomes the *path of least resistance* for the animal.



# CHANGING AN ESTABLISHED BEHAVIOUR

To change the behaviour, we need to prevent the animal from taking the undesirable path, by reducing their stress and meeting their physical and emotional needs.

This will lead to the old path to start to grow weaker and become less likely to be used by the animal.





# CHANGING AN ESTABLISHED BEHAVIOUR

Only now, can we can start teaching a new behavioural response and forming new neural pathways in the association with the previously scary or triggering stimulus.



Stop treading the old path so it grows over and becomes harder to use.

The more you tread the new path, the easier it will be to perform this response in the future.