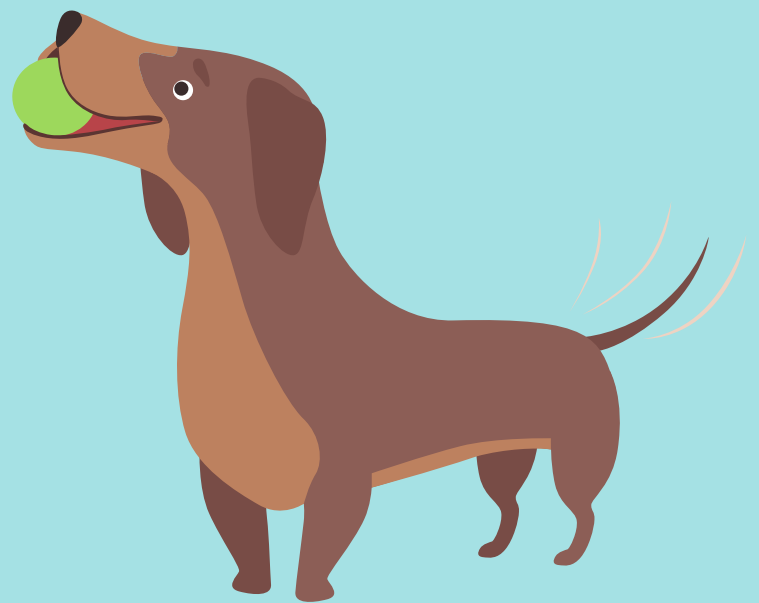




Signs of Good Dog Play



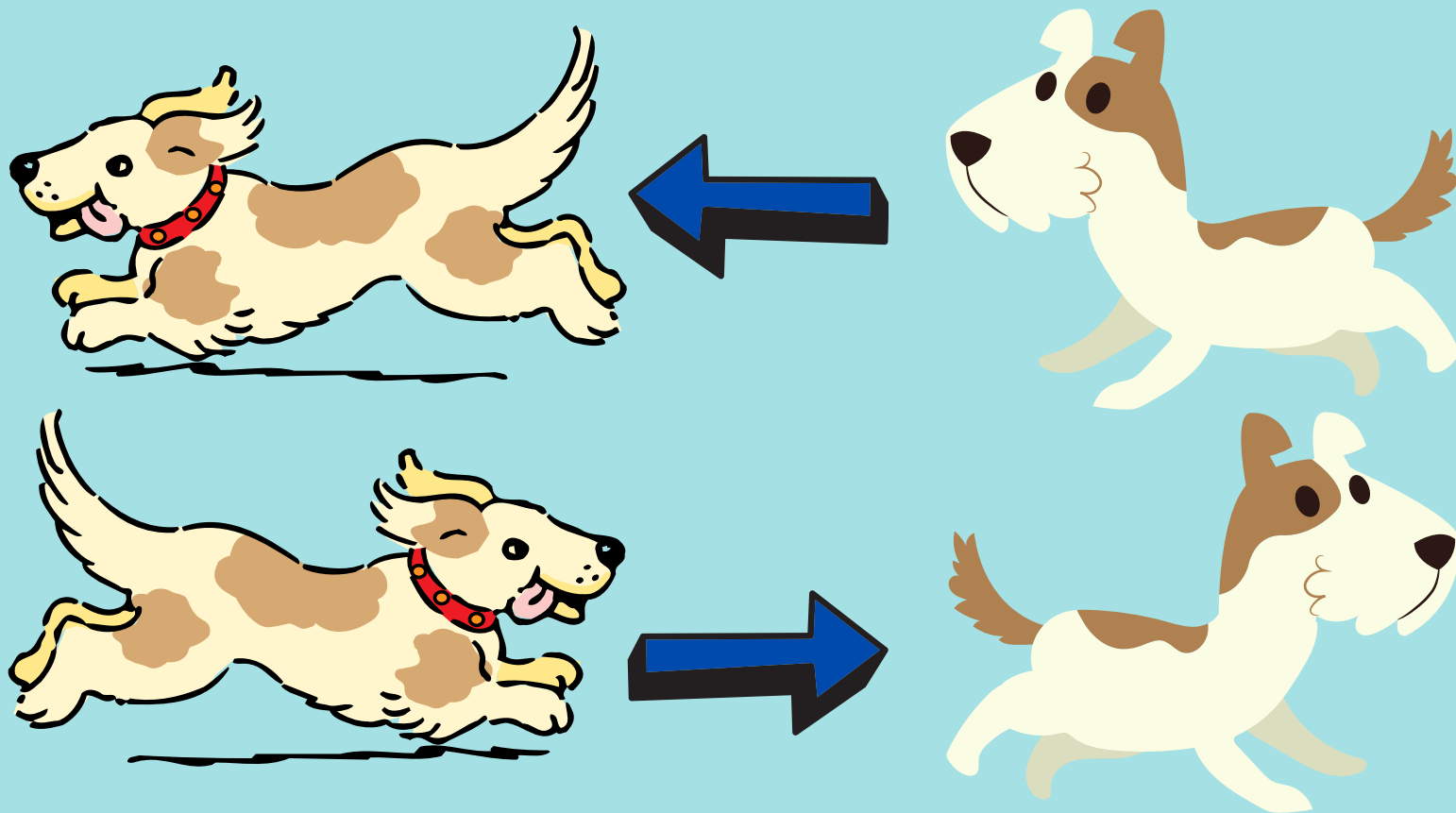
**ANIMAL
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KENT**

Why play?

As social animals, many dogs love playing with friends. However, it is important to ensure the dogs involved are enjoying themselves.

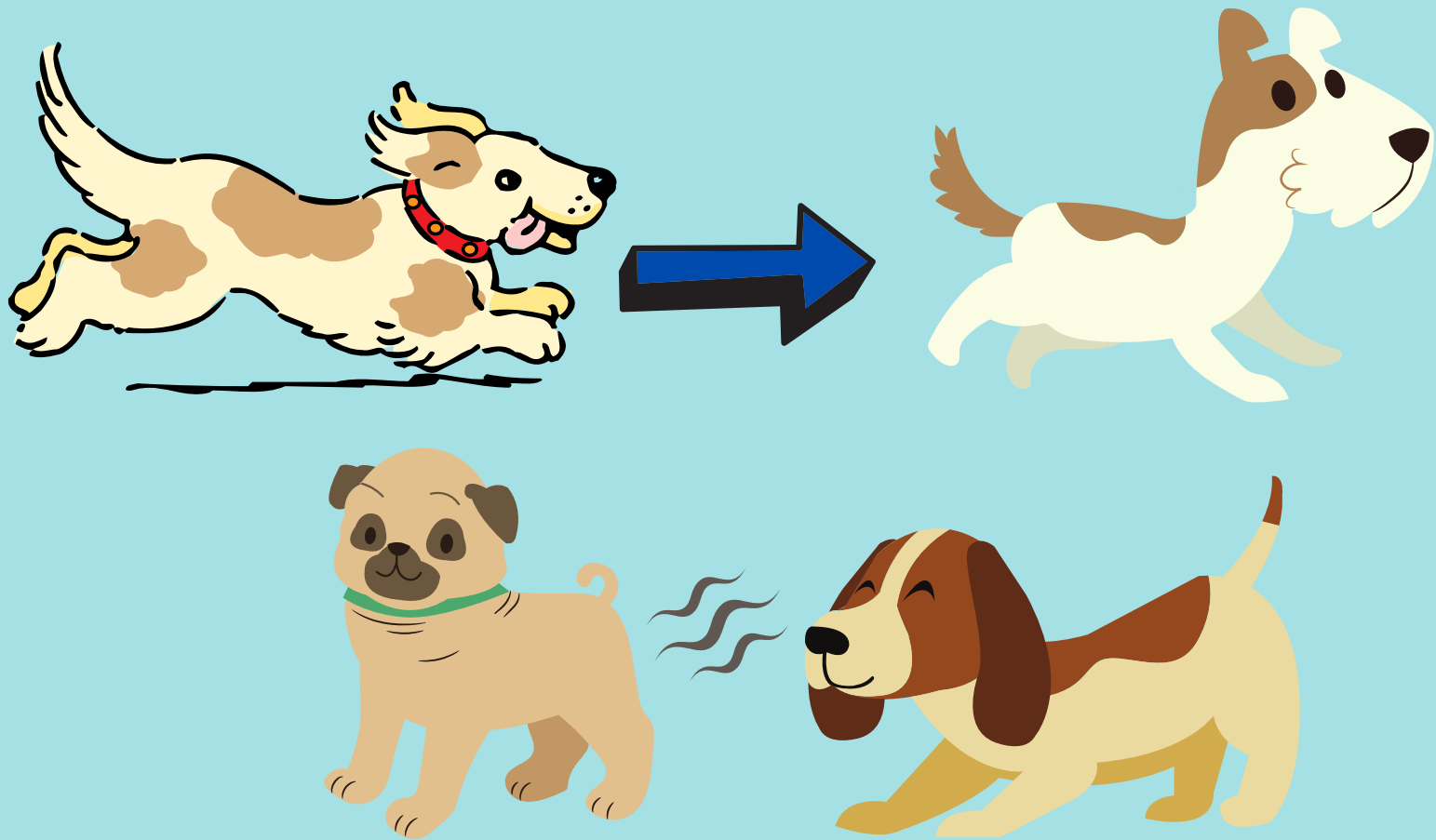
Dog play can be noisy, involve growling, wrestling, mouthing, and light biting, so sometimes it is hard to tell the difference between play and negative interactions. Luckily, there are a few signs you can look out for.

1) Role Changing



During good play, dogs often switch over roles for example, one dog may start off chasing, then switch to being chased.

2) Switching Games



Regular switches in activity are a great sign that play is going well. For example switching from chasing to bottom sniffing.

3) Regular Breaks



Regular breaks from play to calm down are great, and something dogs tend to get better at as they get older and more mature.

4) Calming Signals



Calming signals are body language cues that dogs use to let other dogs know they are friendly. The play bow (above) is a classic, but there are other signs such as turning their head away, and slow blinking that you can look out for.

5) Self Inhibiting



Bigger dogs may inhibit their speed or strength when playing with smaller dogs to make the game more fun for them both.