



Harmonious Handling  
Dog Training

# CANINE STRESS ESCALATION SCALE

## DISPLACEMENT

### **LOW STRESS**

Behaviors  
aim  
to decrease  
stress  
and avoid  
conflict

- Sniffing
- Scratching
- Yawning
- Sneezing
- Stretching



## APPEASEMENT

- Looking/Walking Away
- Moving Slowly
- Rolling Over
- Tail Tucked
- Ears Back
- Cowering
- Paw Lift
- Lip Lick
- Yawning

## STRESS RESPONSE

- Wide Eyes
- Pacing
- Panting
- Trembling
- Shake Off
- Hackles Raised



## PREPARATION

- Appeasements Stop
- Closed Mouth
- Tense Posture
- Freezing

### **Moderate Stress**

Preparing to  
take action



## DEFENSE

- Showing Teeth
- Growling
- Lunging
- Snap
- Bite

### **Extreme Stress**

Dog is  
forced to  
take action

