

Become a
Doggie Detective![®]

Ears, eyes, tail, muzzle.
Gather the clues
to solve the puzzle!



Ears _____

Eyes _____

Tail _____

Muzzle _____





We are excited you have found our **Doggie Detective**[®] activity sheets! What a great way for your whole family to build and grow Dog Aware skills. We encourage you to sit with your child and discuss some of the clues/ signals you see together as you color. Remember **Doggie Detectives**[®] need multiple clues:

Ears, Eyes, Tail, Muzzle. Gather the clues to solve the puzzle!

Figure 2: The dog is lying down with a ball (resource!) nearby. The ears are pulled back, you see whale eye (you can see the whites of the eyes), mouth is closed with a small tongue flick, the tail is low/ somewhat hard to see. This dog's muscles are tense and the head is turned away (avoidance!). This dog appears quite stressed. It is helpful to discuss the proximity to a resource (ball) here and that the dog may feel defensive about it.

Discussion questions:

Q1. Would you approach this dog? Why or why not?

Q2. What do you observe here? Considering the clues you see, how might this dog be feeling?

Q3. Have you ever seen our family dog display any of these communication signals? What happened immediately prior?

Extension activity:

Pick one dog communication signal a week to observe in your family dog or in dogs you see in public. Consider: lip licks, whale eye, yawns, shake offs (like when a dog shakes water off, except the dog is dry), leaning away/ head turns away/ avoidance, going from an open mouth to a closed mouth, etc. As a family, practice your observation skills and see how often you notice your dog exhibiting that signal. What is occurring when it happens? What happens immediately after? Call out the signal when you see it, and encourage your child(ren) to do the same. Once you are all confident noticing that signal, select another one to work through.