

NUNAVUT RABIES AWARENESS & PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Lesson 4: Humans and Dogs



LEARNING GOALS

By the end of this lesson
I will be able to:

- 1 Describe safe behaviour around dogs.
- 2 Use dog body language to identify how dogs are feeling.



**HAVE YOU BEEN BITTEN OR HURT BY
A DOG BEFORE?**



DOG BITES

Dog bites are unfortunately quite common. Every bite comes with the **risk** of transmitting the **rabies virus** to a human.

There are many **reasons** that a dog may bite a person.

Can you think of any?



WHY DOGS BITE

Dogs may bite for many different reasons, including:

- They are protecting themselves or their property
- They may be in pain
- They may feel trapped
- They may have been surprised by your actions
- They may be very excited



SAFE BEHAVIOUR AROUND DOGS

Rarely do dogs attack humans for no reason. In most cases, the **way we act and behave** around dogs makes a big difference in whether we are bitten or not.

Let's consider some scenarios and decide if they are **safe or unsafe**.



Is this behaviour **safe** or **unsafe**?

Throwing rocks at dogs



Unsafe!



Is this behaviour **safe** or **unsafe**?

Running away from dogs



Unsafe!



Is this behaviour **safe** or **unsafe**?

Screaming or yelling at a dog



Unsafe!



Is this behaviour **safe** or **unsafe**?

Going up to a dog that is tied up or cornered (and who doesn't know who you are)



Unsafe!

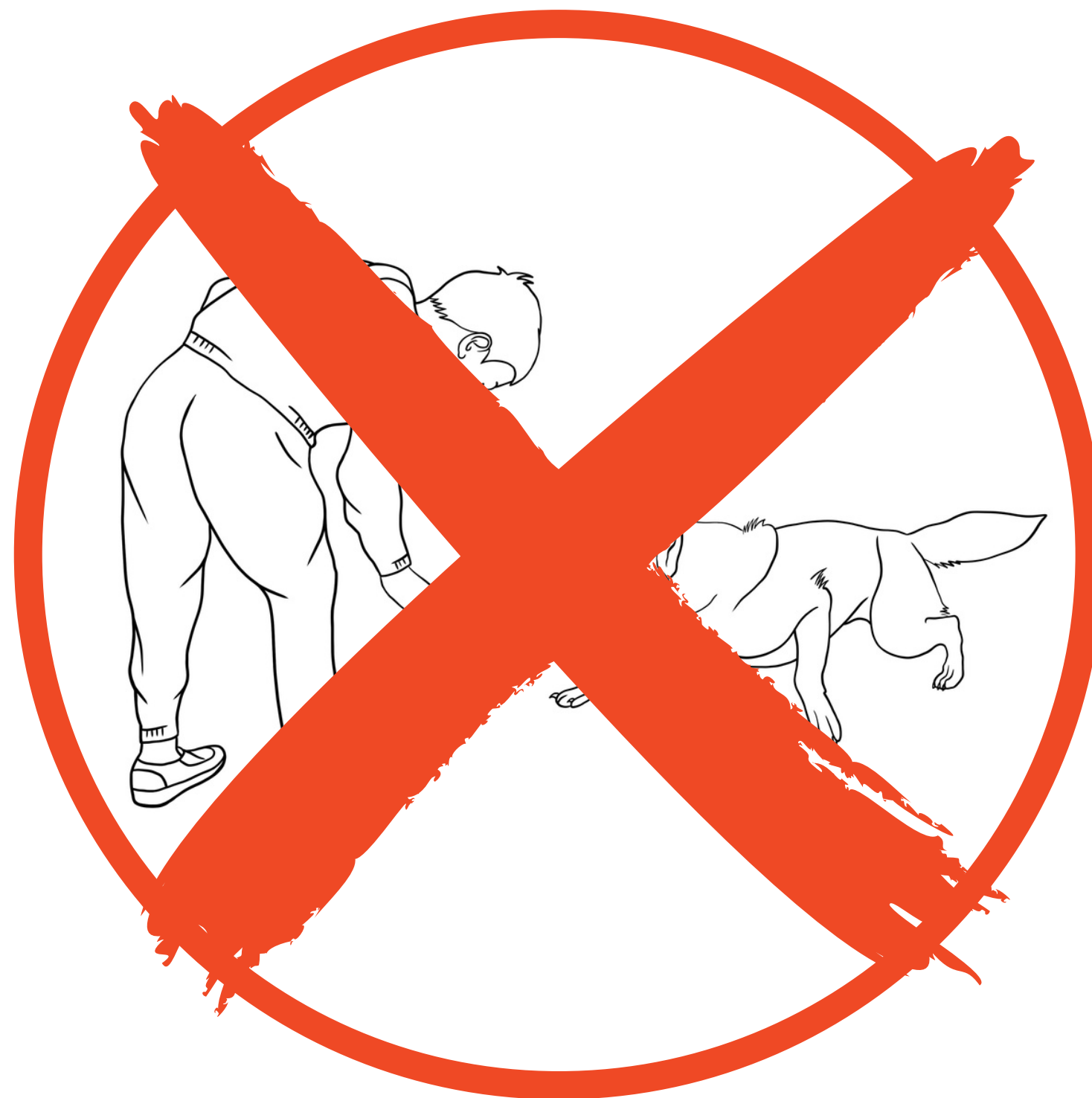


Is this behaviour **safe** or **unsafe**?

Taking away a dog's food or toy



Unsafe!



Is this behaviour **safe** or **unsafe**?

Tightly hugging a dog



Unsafe!



Is this behaviour **safe** or **unsafe**?

Going up to a sleeping dog



Unsafe!



Is this behaviour **safe** or **unsafe**?

Teasing a dog



Unsafe!

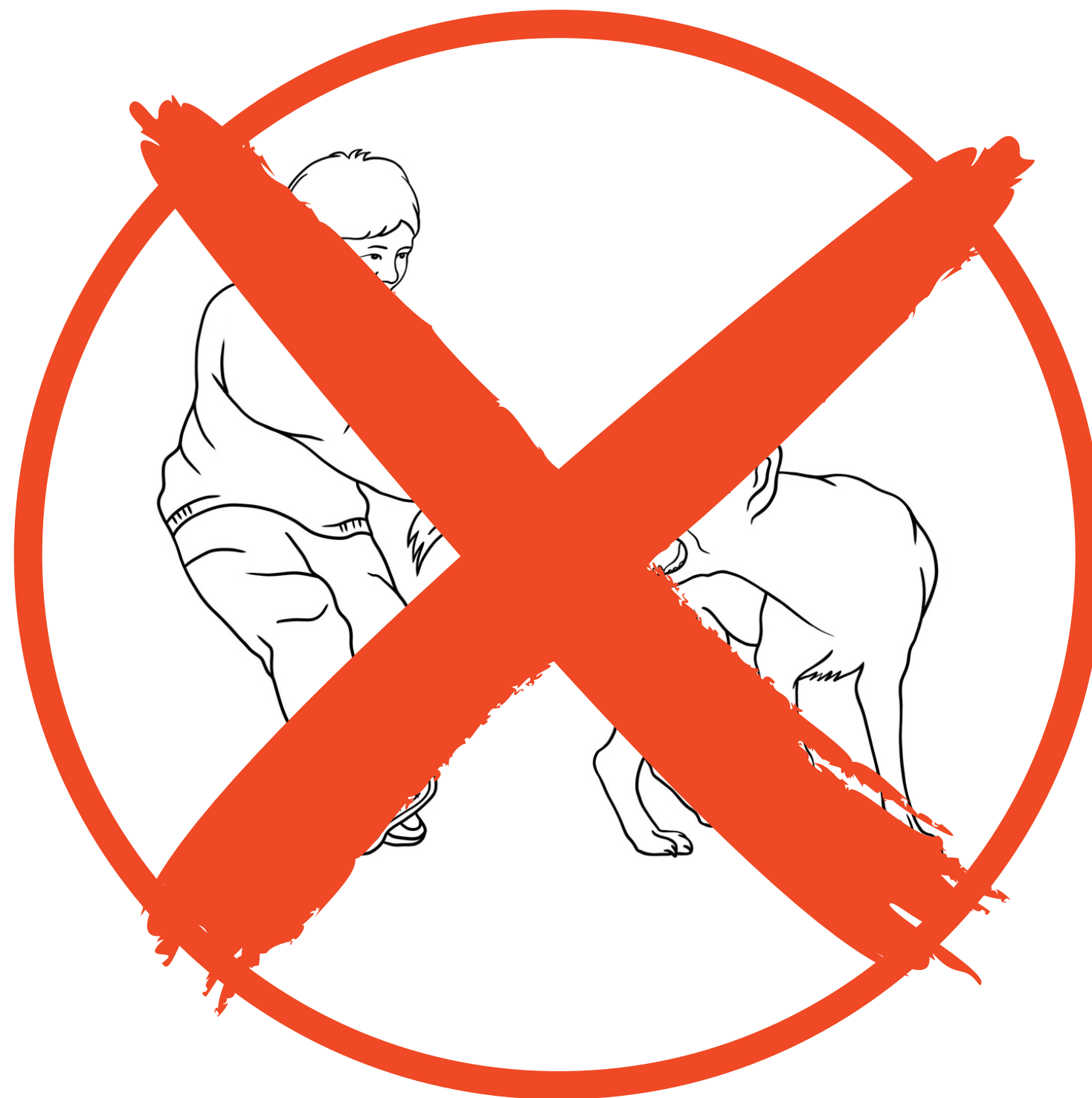


Is this behaviour **safe** or **unsafe**?

Pulling a dog's tail



Unsafe!



Is this behaviour **safe** or **unsafe**?

Taking puppies away from a mother dog



Unsafe!



As you found out, all of the scenarios were **unsafe!**

How many of you have done one or more of those things?

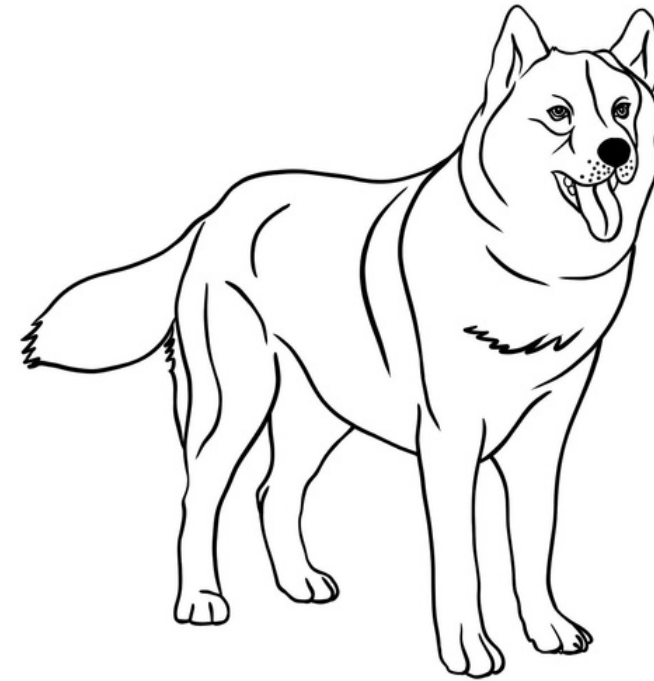
So, how should you act around dogs instead? (Especially dogs that are roaming free around your community).



SAFE BEHAVIOUR AROUND DOGS

It is best to try and **stay a safe distance away** from dogs that are roaming loose in your community.

Often if you ignore them by **not making eye contact** and **walking by slowly**, they will not bother you.



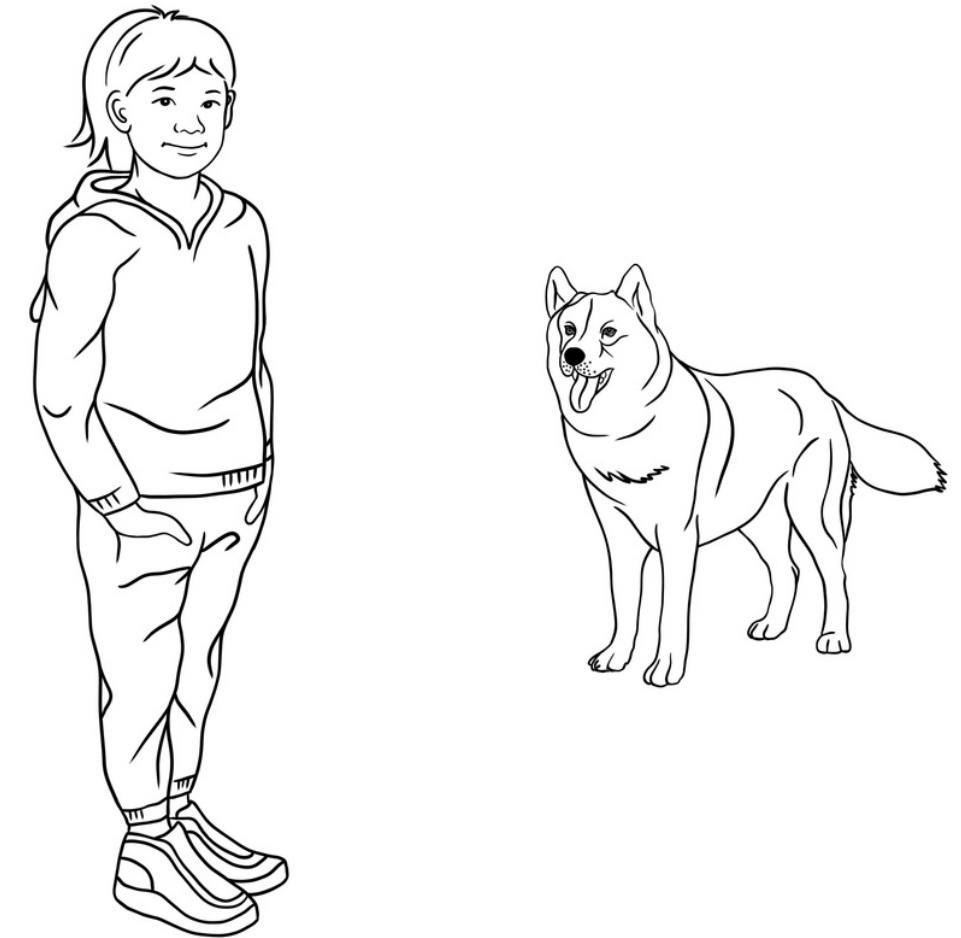
If a dog is being overly curious and comes up to you, try this strategy:

- 1 Stand still with your arms at your sides or crossed
- 2 Face away from them
- 3 Look down

Usually the dog will get bored and will walk off.



Never run away or scream at a dog that is coming too close. This will often make them excited or aggressive and they may chase and/or bite you.



If you are carrying something like food or toys that a dog is overly interested in, **throw it away from you.**

That will often distract the dog and allow you to walk away slowly without them noticing or caring.

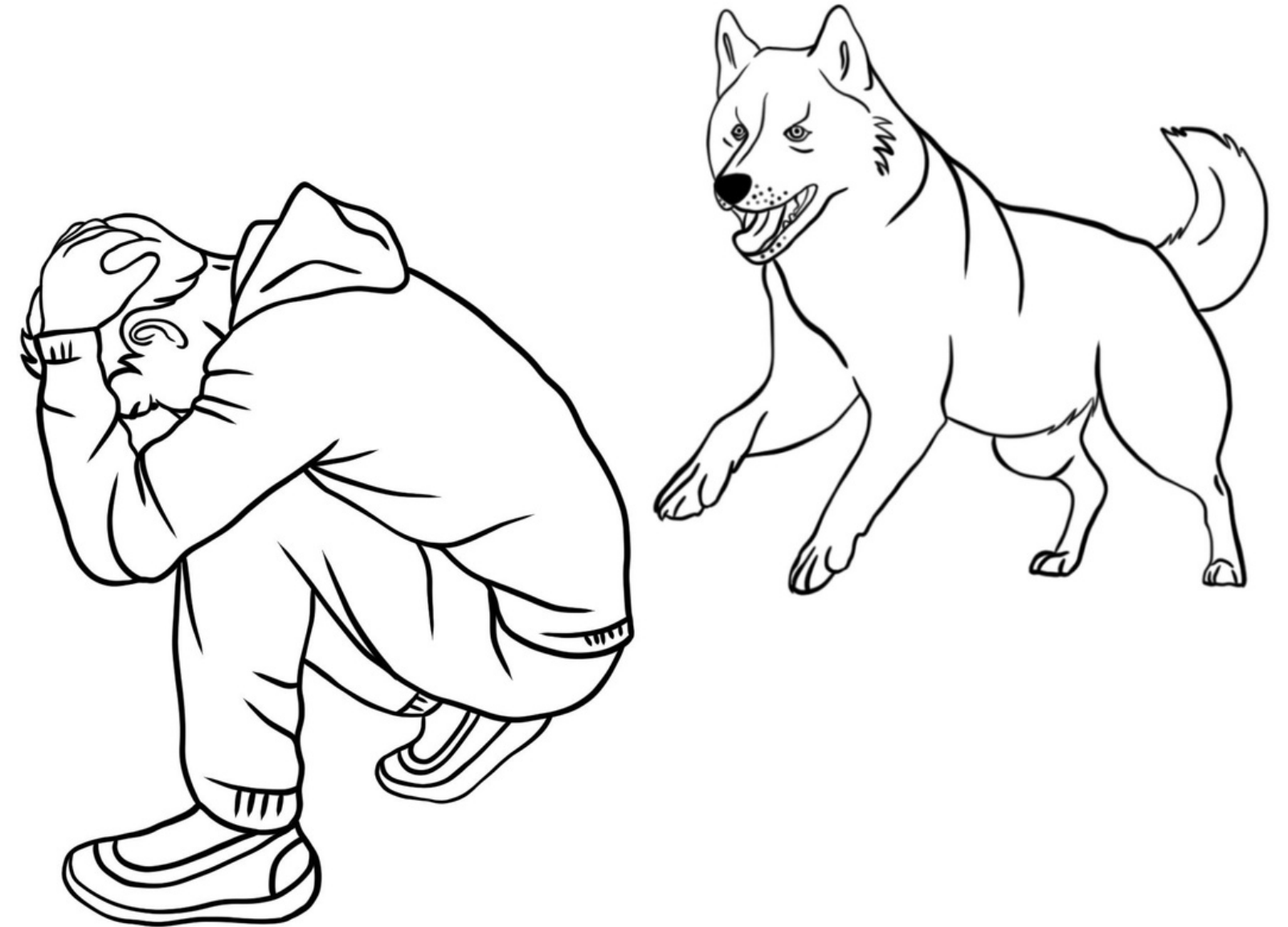


If a dog is *really* not leaving you alone, try this:

Get on the ground in a curled up **brace position**, with your arms covering your face and head.

This is a **non-threatening** position for a dog and they may decide to leave you alone.

Also, the brace position protects your important body parts if the dog does bite you.

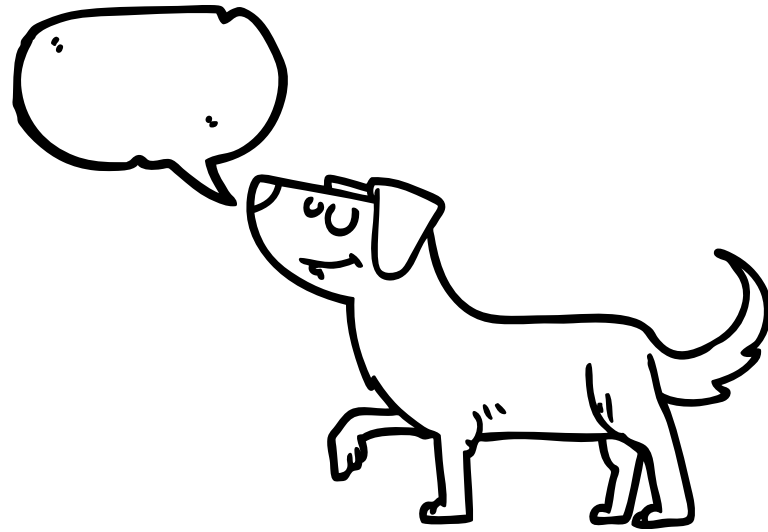


ROLE PLAY



DOG COMMUNICATION

Although dogs don't speak Inuktitut, English or French, they *do* **communicate** with us.



The main way that dogs communicate is through **body language**.

Understanding dog body language can help us be safe around dogs.

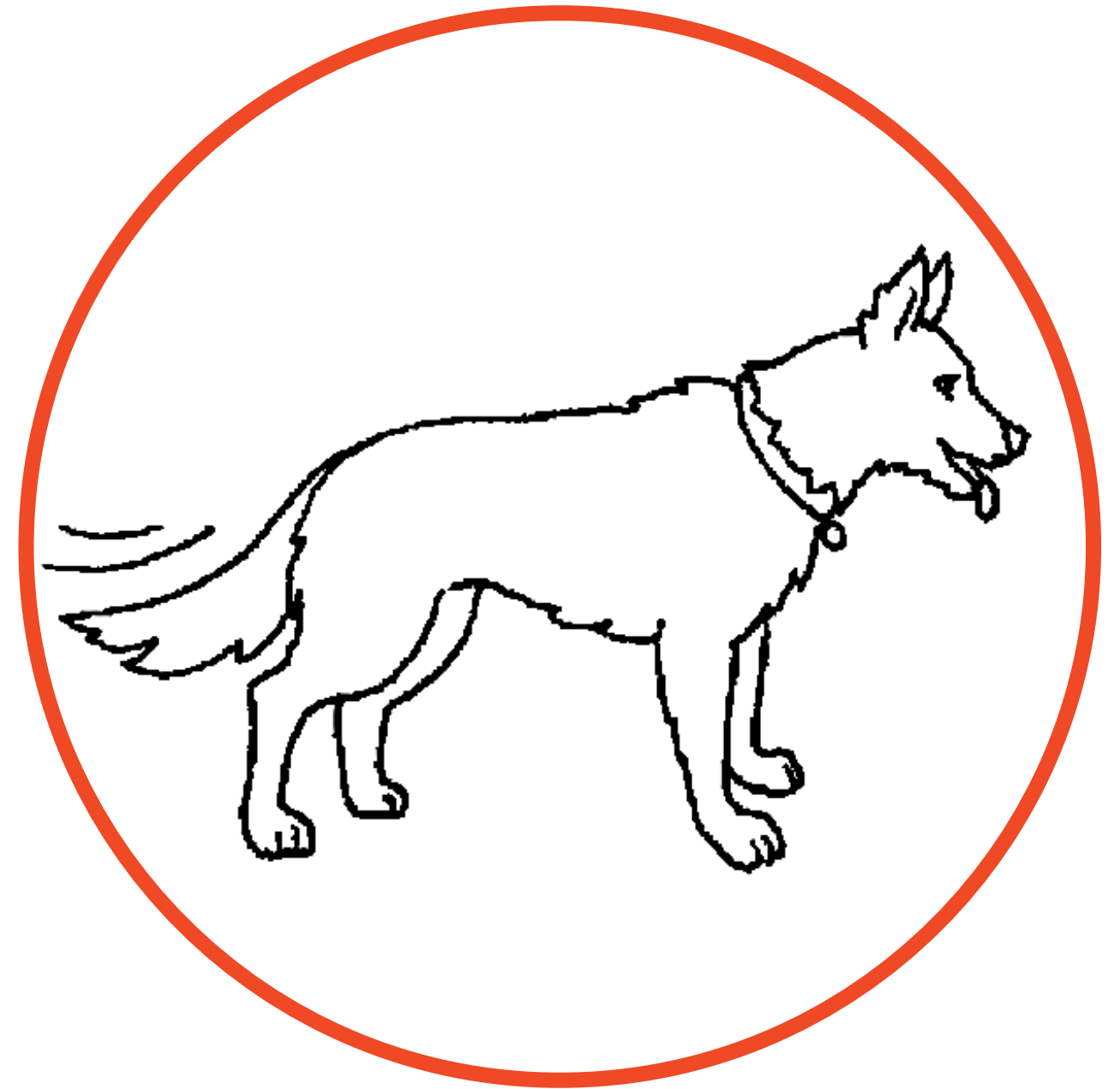


DOG BODY LANGUAGE

Dogs show us how they are feeling with their whole bodies!

Look closely at this dog's **ears**, **mouth** and **tail** for clues.

How do you think they are feeling?



Happy



How is this dog feeling?



Playful



How is this dog feeling?



Angry



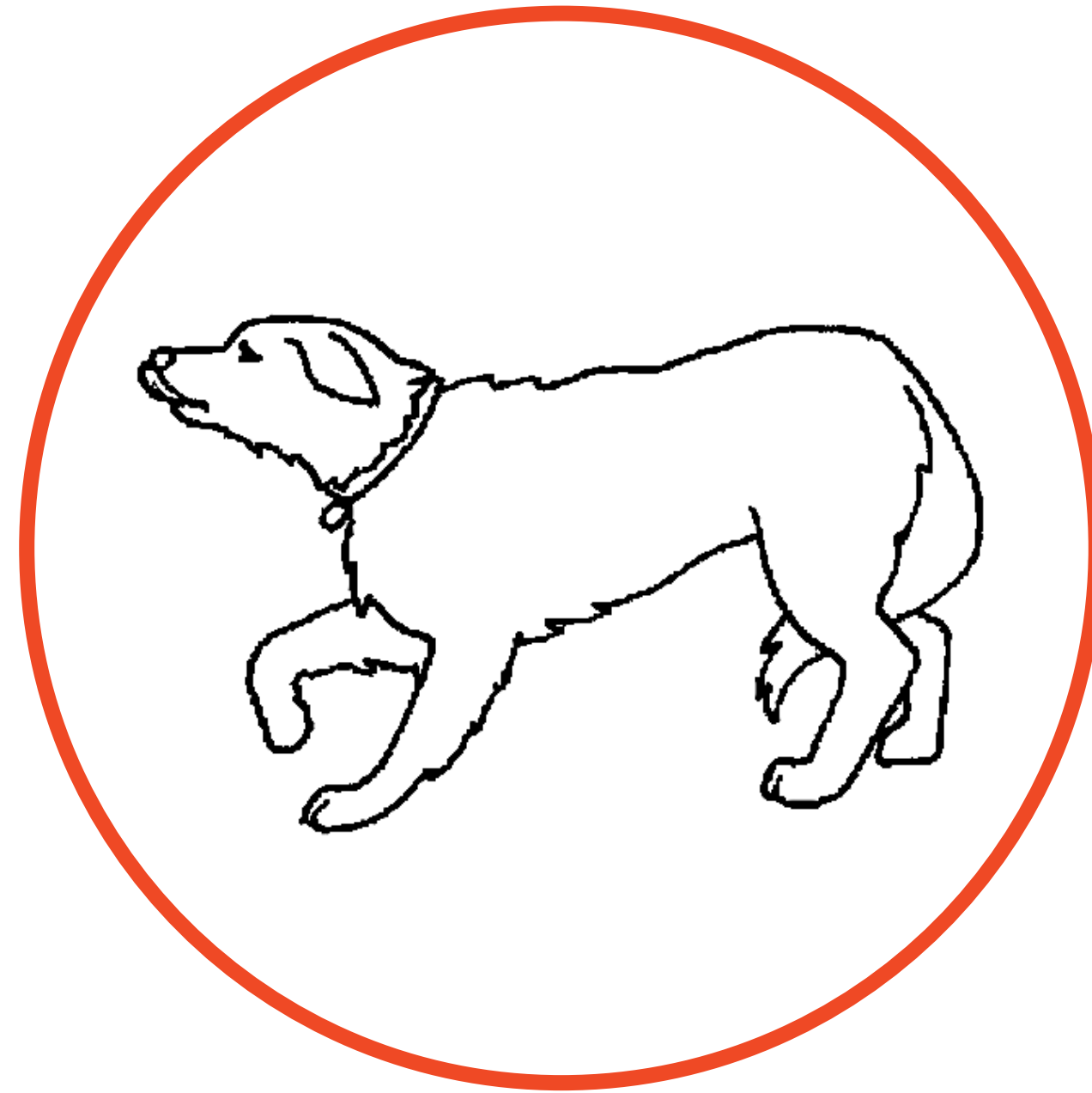
How is this dog feeling?



Excited



How is this dog feeling?



Scared



DOG SAFETY

You should never approach dogs that looks scared or angry. This may put you at risk of being bitten.

You should also be careful around dogs who are playful and excited, as they may bite you too.

The safest dogs to be around are dogs that know you well, who feel safe with you, and are feeling happy.



LET'S PRACTICE!

