

Brycen Van Cleave

4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Mary Moore Elementary

Teacher: Mrs. Commerford

## Dog Talk

There are tons of ways dogs communicate with humans. Many are very common, some are rare. Dogs can communicate, danger, fear, and help humans.

The most common of the forms of communication are tail wags, barks, and pants. The dog wags its tail to show that it is happy to see you or excited and having fun. Most dogs greet their humans with a tail wag. The panting shows exhaustion and thirst. A dog's bark can communicate anger and frustration. Some dogs are trained to use their bark to let their human know when something is wrong. For example, a dog might bark when a human is having a medical issue or is in danger.

Some of the more rare communications are nose points, paw slaps, and peeing. Nose points are usually found in a certain breed of dog which are an English and German pointer. They are used for hunting. The dog points their nose in the direction of the animal so the hunters know which way to shoot. My dogs pee to mark their territory. When another dog pees on that spot the dog will pee over it to tell humans and dogs that the spot is their territory. The paw slaps are used to alert humans if something is wrong. My dog woke up my dad one night to alert him that the back door was open. Also dogs can use the paw slap, when they want you to continue something nice you were doing like petting them.

Three other ways dogs communicate are by lying down, howling, and shaking. The howling is to communicate with the owner that they are sad, upset, or hurt. Dogs often howl, when sirens go off because the noises hurt their ears. When a dog is fearful they can begin to shake to communicate their fear. Just like my grandparents dog, some dogs shake periodically which communicates their fear or anxiety and allows their human to know they need comfort and love. Of course, you will know the next one. Lying down and shutting their eyes communicates that the dog is ready for bed.

As you can see, there are many different and interesting ways that dogs communicate with humans. Dogs can tell humans their feelings and even save someone's life without saying a word. Next time you see a dog, watch and listen closely because they might be trying to tell you something.