



# DOG BEHAVIOR

*Cheat Sheet*



**QC PET STUDIES**





# Relaxed Dog

*Signs can include...*

- Open mouth
- Relaxed ears
- Leaning into human
- Offering paw
- Soft eyes
- Head held high
- Tail down (not tucked)
- Loose stance



Loose stance, open/relaxed mouth, soft eyes, looking at human, head held high



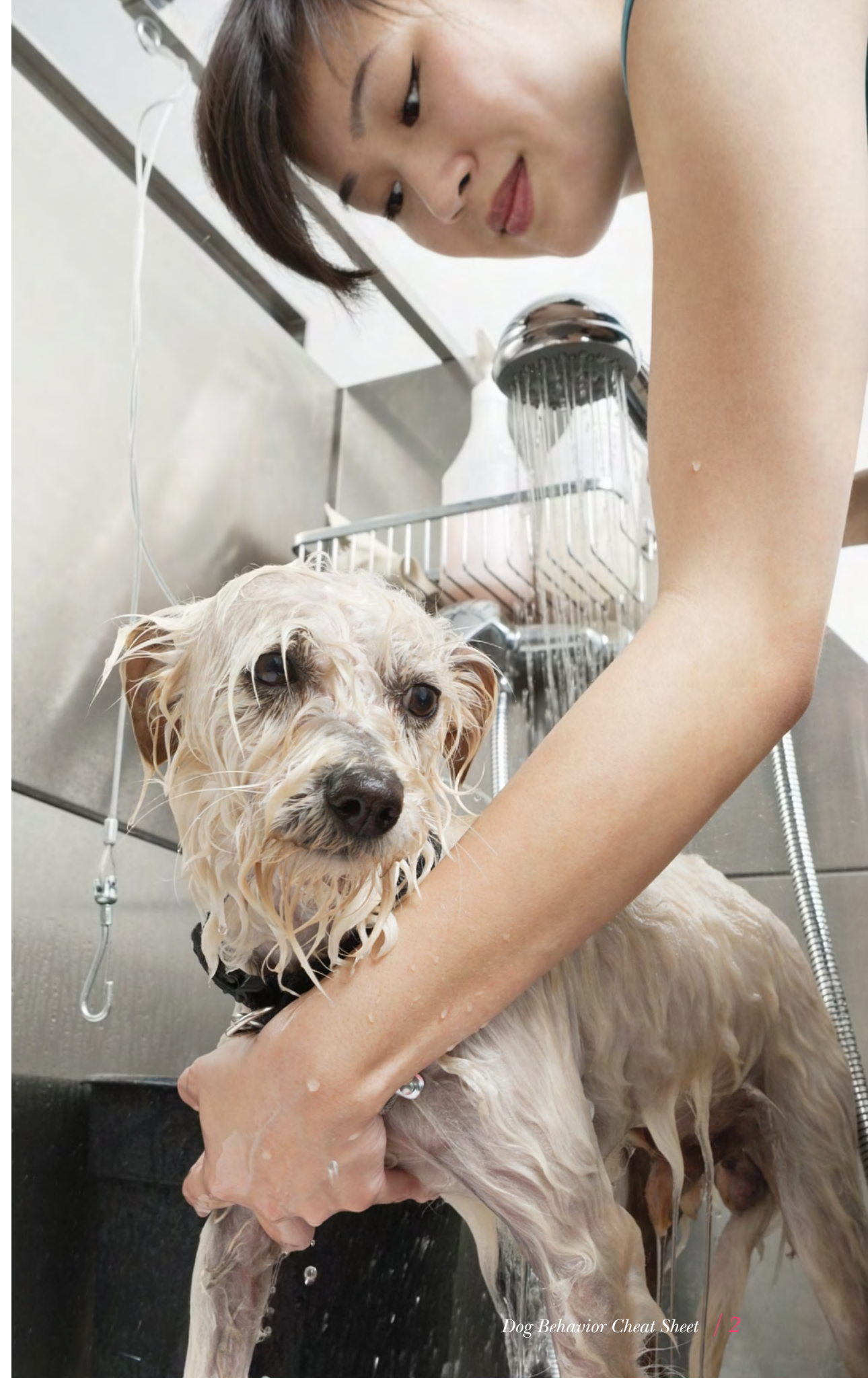
# Signs of Stress

*Signs can include...*

- Stiff posture
- Panting
- Pacing
- Tucked tail
- Closed mouth/tight lips
- Sweaty paws
- Whining
- Drooling
- Whale eye

Dogs showing some (or all) of these behaviors are stressed out! Consider if there's anything you can do to relieve their anxiety before it escalates.

Stiff posture, tucked tail, closed/tight mouth







# Calming Signals

*Signs can include...*

- Turning away
- Averting eyes
- Licking nose or chops
- Sniffing the ground
- Yawning
- Play bow
- Smiling (showing teeth in a grin)

Dogs showing some (or all) these behaviors are trying to communicate with you.

Don't interpret these calming signals as disobedience or aggression!



(Top) Licking nose/chops



(Bottom) Play bow, yawning



# Threatening/ Warning Behavior

*Signs can include...*

- Bearing teeth
- Growling
- Aggressive barking
- Lunging
- Snapping ("air snap")

These dogs are telling you as loud as they can that they're about to bite. Do not try to "correct" these warnings. Stop what you're doing immediately and give the dog time and space to calm down.

(Top) Bearing teeth, whale eye



(Bottom) Bearing teeth, aggressive barking







# Dogs Over Threshold

## *Signs can include...*

- Snarling/Aggressive Barking
- Freezing
- Shutting Down
- Overexcitement
- Defecating/Urinating
- Vomiting
- Squealing/Screaming
- Scratching
- Biting

Dogs over threshold are in full-on panic mode. They are incapable of learning or assimilating any new information, and are in a state of mind where they can hurt you or hurt themselves. Once a dog is over threshold, the only thing you can do is give him/her time and space to calm down.



A dog over threshold is at risk of hurting you and himself

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