# The Stress Escalation Ladder

# **Extreme Level of Stress**

Dog is forced to take action



# Preparation to take Action

BITE





# **Low Level of Stress**

Communication efforts to decrease stress levels and perceived aggressive

## **Preparing to Defend:**

- \*Showing teeth
- \*Growling

#### FOCUS:

- Loss of conflict behaviors
- Close mouth
- \*FREEZE

### **Stress Reactions:**

- \* Panting
- \* Pupil dilation
- \*Shaking off adrenaline
- \*Sweating paws
- \*Trembling/shaking
- \*Whale eye
- \* Hackling

### **Conflict Behaviors:**

- \*Yawning
- \*Lip licking
- \*Looking away
- \*Turning away
- \* Moving slowly

## **Displacement Behaviors:**

- \*Sniffing the ground
- \*Scratching