

AUGUST 01, 2013

by Miranda Bourque

Ladder of Aggression

Ladder of Aggression (Kendal Shepherd)

How a dog reacts to stress or a threat can be represented as a series of ascending steps on a ladder. These gestures are responses to an escalation of perceived threat only and are NOT expressions of a 'submissive' or 'dominant' state. The choice of strategy (whether to escalate to a bite or not) will depend on the circumstances (time, target, interactions, previous experience) and on the severity of any underlying physical disease. Pain frequently converts a 'flight' response to fight.

