

TABLE 3.1

BEHAVIORAL SYSTEMS AND KNOWN BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS IN THE FAMILY CANIDAE

System and Pattern (I = Infantile only)	Dog	Wolf	Coyote	Fox
Investigative behavior:				
Walking or running with nose to ground, sniffing.....	F, N	M		T
Head in air, sniffing, may run from side to side.....	F			T
Sniffing anal and/or genital region.....	F, N	Y, S		T
Sniffing nose or face.....	F, N	M, S		T
Head raised, ears erect (listening and looking).....	F, N	M		T
Nosing and sniffing urine or feces.....	F, N	Y, S		T
Crawling forward, moving head from side to side, sniffing (I).....	N	M?		T
Epimeletic behavior:				
Shelter building:				
Turning around before lying down.....	F, N	M		T
Digging bed in dirt.....		M		T
Digging enlargement of den.....	F	M, Y		T
Grooming:				
Scratching self.....	F, N			T
Rubbing against object.....	F			T
Rubbing or rolling on ground.....	E		M	
Biting own fur.....	F, N			T
Shaking self.....	F			T
Licking own genital or anal region.....	F, N			T
Licking puppies, chiefly in genital and anal regions (eating excreta).....	N	Y		T
Feeding:				
Allowing puppies to nurse.....	F, N			T
Vomiting food for puppies.....	N	Y		
Carrying food to puppies.....		M, Y		T
Food caching (burying food).....	N	M, C	M	T
Miscellaneous:				
Carrying puppies to nest.....	N	Y		T
Pushing puppies with nose.....	N	Y		T
Whining (possibly warning).....	N	Y		
Et-epimeletic behavior (attention getting or care soliciting):				
Whining.....	F, N	M		
Yelping.....	N	S		
Tail wagging (special kinds also seen with agonistic behavior).....	F, N	M, Y, S		T
Licking face or hands of person, usually with tail wagging.....	F, N	S, C		T
Touching with paws.....	N	M		T
Allelomimetic behavior (often combined with et-epimeletic, investigative, and agonistic behavior):				
Walking or running together.....	F, N	M	M	
Sitting or lying down together.....	F, N	M		
Getting up together.....	F, N	M		
Sleeping together.....	F, N	M		
Howling in unison.....	N	M, Y, S, C	M*	
Howling, solitary (loneliness).....	N	M, Y		T

F = Field; N = Nursery; K = Kennel; E = Elsewhere (where observed in dogs)

M = Murie; Y = Young; S = Schenkel; C = Crisler; T = Tembrock (where reported in other canids)

? = Behavior implied, not directly described.

* Characteristically different from wolves or dogs—higher pitched, interspersed with barking.

TABLE 3.1—Continued

System and Pattern (I = Infantile only)	Dog	Wolf	Coyote	Fox
Agonistic behavior (patterns associated with conflict):				
Fighting and predation:				
Chasing.....	F	M, Y	M	T
Biting.....	F	M, Y, C	M [?]	T
Snapping teeth.....	K	Y, S		
Pawing (sometimes in standing position)....	N			T
Snarling (showing teeth).....	F, N	M, Y, S		
Growling.....	F, N	M, Y, C		T
Barking.....	F, N	M, Y		T
Wagging tip of tail.....	K	S		T
Tail switching.....		S		T
Playful fighting, similar to above, but less intense, includes panting.....	F, N			T
Pouncing or springing.....		M, S	M	T
Tossing small game into air.....		M		T
Herding.....	K	M, Y, C		
Defense and escape reactions:				
Sitting.....	N	Y		T
Crouching.....	F, N	M		T
Running away.....	F, N	M		T
Yelping and showing teeth.....	N	S		
Tail between legs.....	F, N	Y, S		
Rolling on back, pawing and extending legs..	F, N	M		T
Attitudes of dominance:				
Forepaws on back, growling, tail erect (may bite neck).....	F, N	S		
Standing over dog on ground, growling.....	F			
Standing or walking stiff-legged with tail erect	F, N	S		
Head down, back arched, tail down.....			M	T
Mounting, tail down, neck biting, without pelvic thrusts.....				T
Attitudes of subordination:				
Allowing dominant animal to place feet on back, tail erect.....	N			
Tail down.....	F, N	S		
Tail between legs, crouching, ears depressed..	N	M?, S		
Roll on back, legs extended, tail between legs	N	M, S		
Miscellaneous: hair raising.....	K	S		
Sexual behavior:				
Male:				
Running with ♀.....	F	Y		T (follow)
Forepaws extended, body thrown back on haunches, head to one side.....	F, N	C		
Licking ♀ genitalia.....	F, N	S		T
Mounting.....	F, N	Y, S		T
Clasping.....	F, N	Y?		T
Pelvic thrusts.....	F, N	Y?		T
Copulatory tie.....	F, N	Y		T
Female:				
Running with ♂.....	F	Y		
Forepaws extended, body thrown back on haunches, head to one side.....	F	M?, C		T

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Note differences from wolves and dogs in dominance-subordination behavior of foxes and coyotes. Information on coyotes is relatively incomplete.

TABLE 3.1—Continued

System and Pattern (I = Infantile only)	Dog	Wolf	Coyote	Fox
Mounting.....	N	S		T
Clasping.....	N	M		T
Pelvic thrusts.....	N			T
Standing for ♂.....	F, N			T
Tail moved to one side.....	F	S		T
Both:				
"Wrestling," forepaws around each other's necks.....	E			
Eliminative behavior (see closely related patterns of investigative behavior):				
Male:				
Micturition with all 4 legs extended (I).....	N			T
Micturition with lifting of hind leg, usually in places used by other ♂'s.....	K	S		T
Female: micturition in squatting position.....	F, N			T
Both sexes:				
Wandering, nosing ground before defecation	F, N			
Defecation.....	F, N	Y, S		T
Scratching ground with all 4 feet following defecation (rare in ♀).....	K, N	Y		
Defecation and urination in places previously used.....	F, N	Y		T
Ingestive behavior:				
Lapping, tail out and down.....	F, N	Y, S		T
Chewing and swallowing, same tail position..	N	S		T
Gnawing, holding food with paws.....	K		M	T
Eating grass.....	F	M		T
Sucking, pushing with head, alternately pushing with forepaws, hind feet pushing, tail out and down (I).....	N			T
Comfort-seeking behavior (shelter-seeking):				
Lying in a heap (I).....	N	M		T
Lying close together.....	F	M		T
Curling up.....	F, N	M		T
Miscellaneous motor activities:				
Twitching while asleep (I).....	N			T
Stretching.....	F, N	M		T
Yawning.....	F, N	M, C		T
Rolling over.....	F, N	M	M	T

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