

Here's a simple chart to help you read your German Shepherd's signals fast. It lists what they mean and what to do. Download the PDF to keep it handy!

Signal	What It Means	What to Do
Ears up, face relaxed	Happy, alert	Play or train with them
Ears pinned, white eyes	Scared, nervous	Give space, remove stress
Ears sideways, soft eyes	Chill, calm	Keep things relaxed
Stiff ears, tight lips	Uncomfy or mad	Back off, get a trainer
Slow, middle tail wag	Content, calm	Keep hanging out
Fast, high tail wag	Excited or maybe mad	Check posture, redirect if tense
Low, tucked tail	Afraid, giving in	Comfort them, don't push
Stiff, straight tail	Protective, angry	Remove trigger, get help
Spinning tail	Super happy	Play or give love
Standing tall, high head	Confident, bossy	Watch for anger, redirect
Low body, tucked tail	Scared, submissive	Reassure, make them feel safe
Leaning forward	Curious or aggressive	Check what's up, distract if needed
Puffy fur	Worked up (stress or excitement)	Find the cause, calm them
Play bow	Wants to play	Grab a toy, have fun
Pacing, panting	Stressed out	Take a break, remove stress