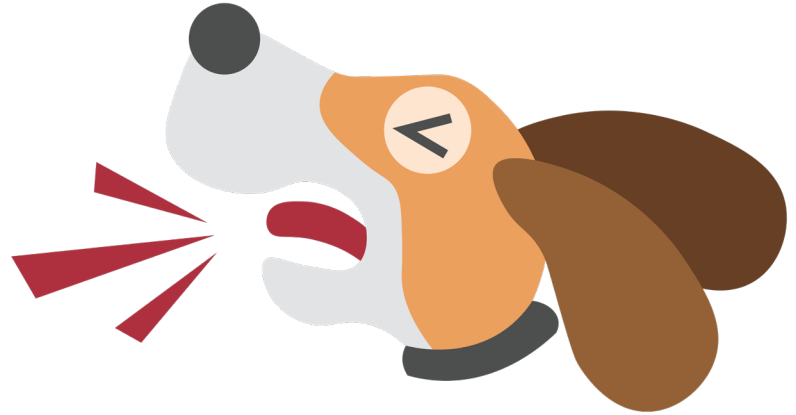


When Your Dog “Talks Back”

It’s Not Sass, It’s Communication

What “pushback” might look like:

- Freezing or pausing
- Barking or whining
- Backing away or resisting the leash
- Leash biting
- Flopping on their back
- Jumping, mouthing, or pacing
- Looking away or avoiding eye contact



These aren’t signs of defiance — they’re signs your dog is trying to tell you something.



Common Label	Reframe with Curiosity
“She’s being sassy.”	“She may be overwhelmed.”
“He’s testing me.”	“He may not understand.”
“She’s stubborn.”	“She may not feel safe.”
“He’s being dramatic.”	“He may need help coping.”

Instead of Forcing... Try Listening.

Observe body language, pause, and reflect: Is my dog okay? Adjust the environment or task. Support, don’t scold. Collaborate, don’t control! Your dog isn’t giving you a hard time—they’re having a hard time. Reach out to become a **Loyal Pawrent** and discover the “why” behind your dog’s behavior.