

# Understanding Threshold

& meeting our puppies where they're at

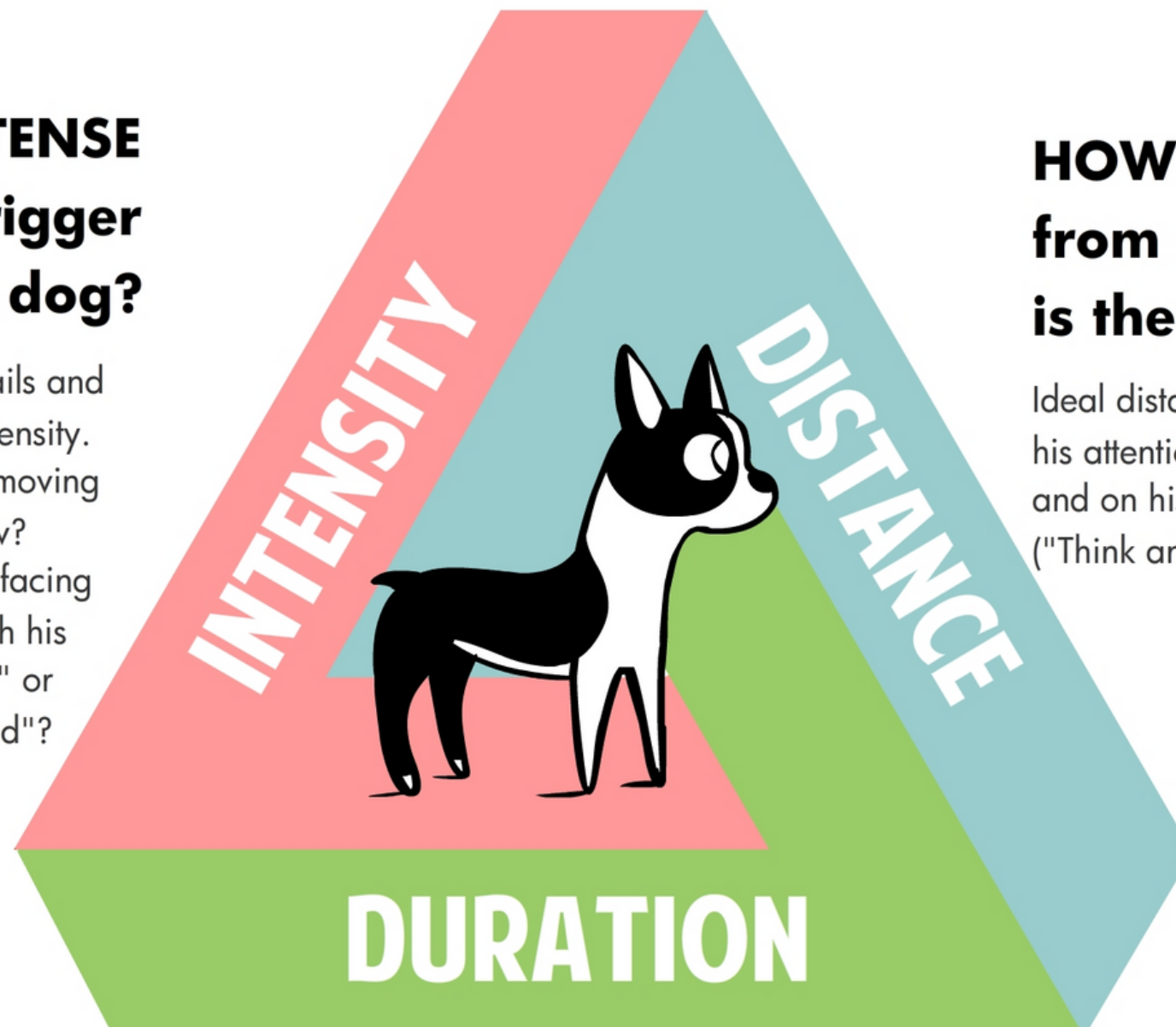


# Why it's important

- Know how much our puppies can handle at a certain moment
- Realize when it's time to leave a situation immediately
- Understand the emotional state of our puppy so we can act accordingly

## HOW INTENSE is the trigger for the dog?

Consider details and  
adjust the intensity.  
Is the trigger moving  
fast/slow?  
Is the trigger facing  
the dog with his  
"blunt end" or  
"pointy end"?



## HOW FAR AWAY from the dog is the trigger?

Ideal distance: the dog can split  
his attention between the trigger  
and on his handler  
("Think and Learn" zone)

## FOR HOW LONG will the dog be asked to deal with the trigger?

Ideal duration: depends on intensity and distance.  
When in doubt, keep it brief, listen to what your dog tells you.

**Trigger is TOO INTENSE** = increase distance + shorten duration

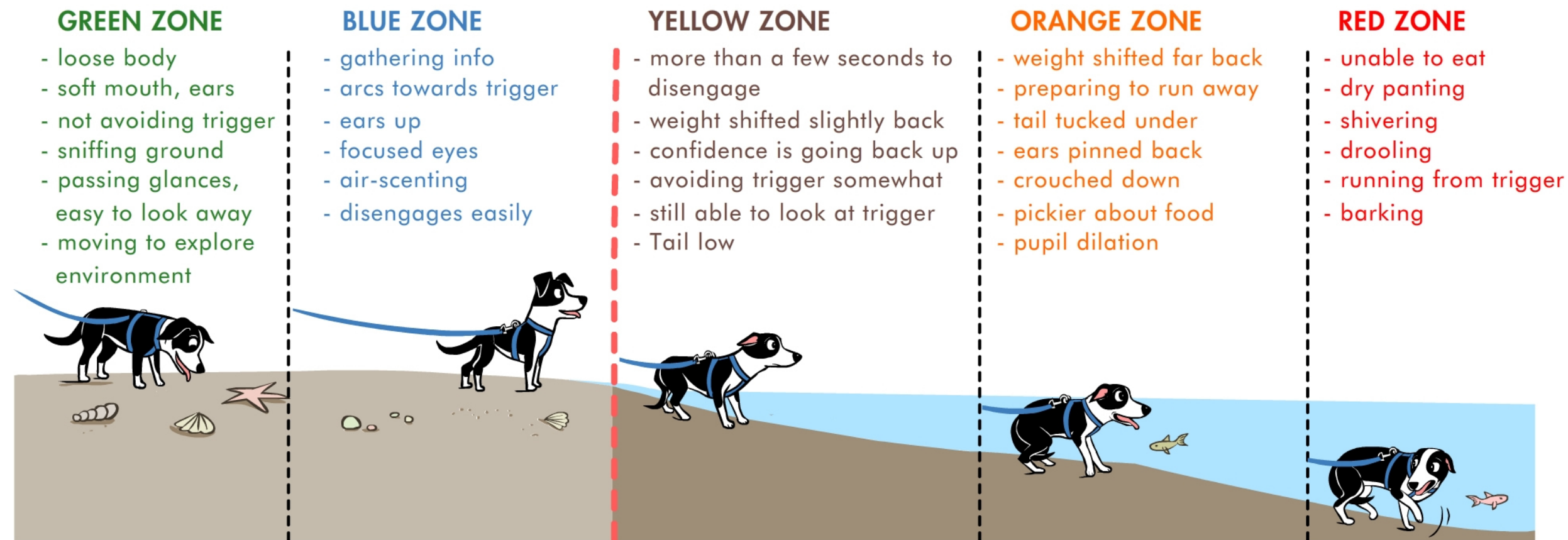
**Trigger is TOO CLOSE** = decrease intensity + shorten duration

**Dealing with Trigger for TOO LONG** = increase distance + decrease intensity





# Stay on the beach analogy



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<b>Ideal</b> Follow the dog. No prompt needed.	<b>OK</b> Wait for disengagement and follow the dog. Slow Stop at the shoreline (straight approaches, etc.)	<b>Help After</b> Prompt after disengagement, encourage back to shore. Shift weight. Verbal "done?"	<b>Call Away</b> Prompt right away. Move to 'dry land', and treat.	<b>Get Away</b> Try to avoid restraining flight, cue to get into working mode.
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# Stay on the beach analogy

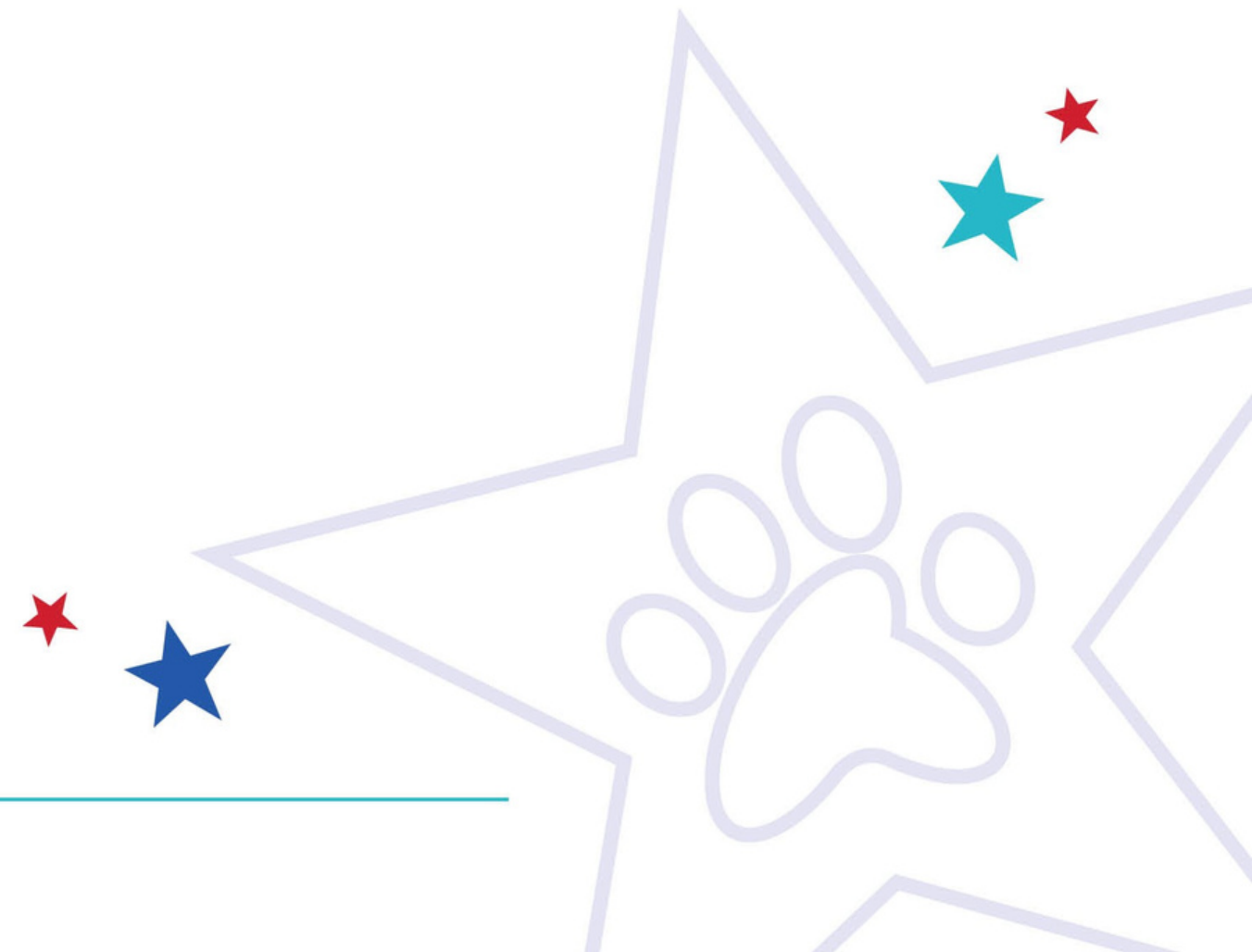
## GREEN ZONE

- loose body
- soft mouth, ears
- not avoiding trigger
- sniffing ground
- passing glances, easy to look away
- moving to explore environment





**When is your puppy in the  
green zone?**

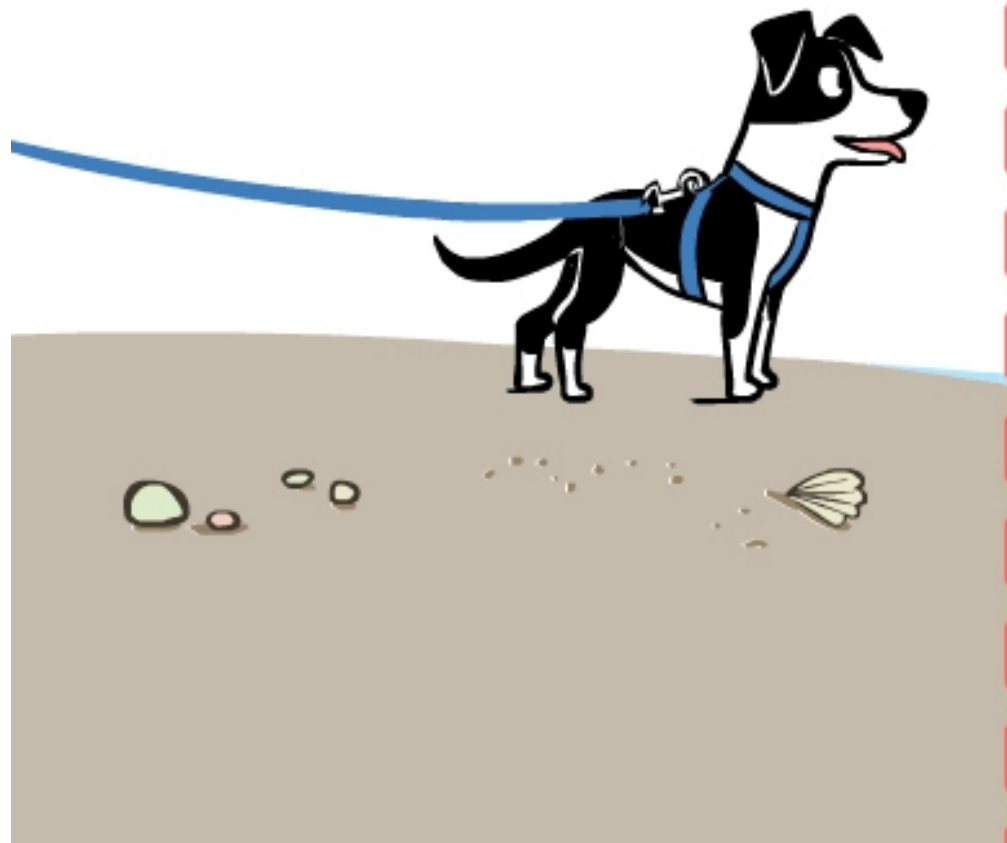




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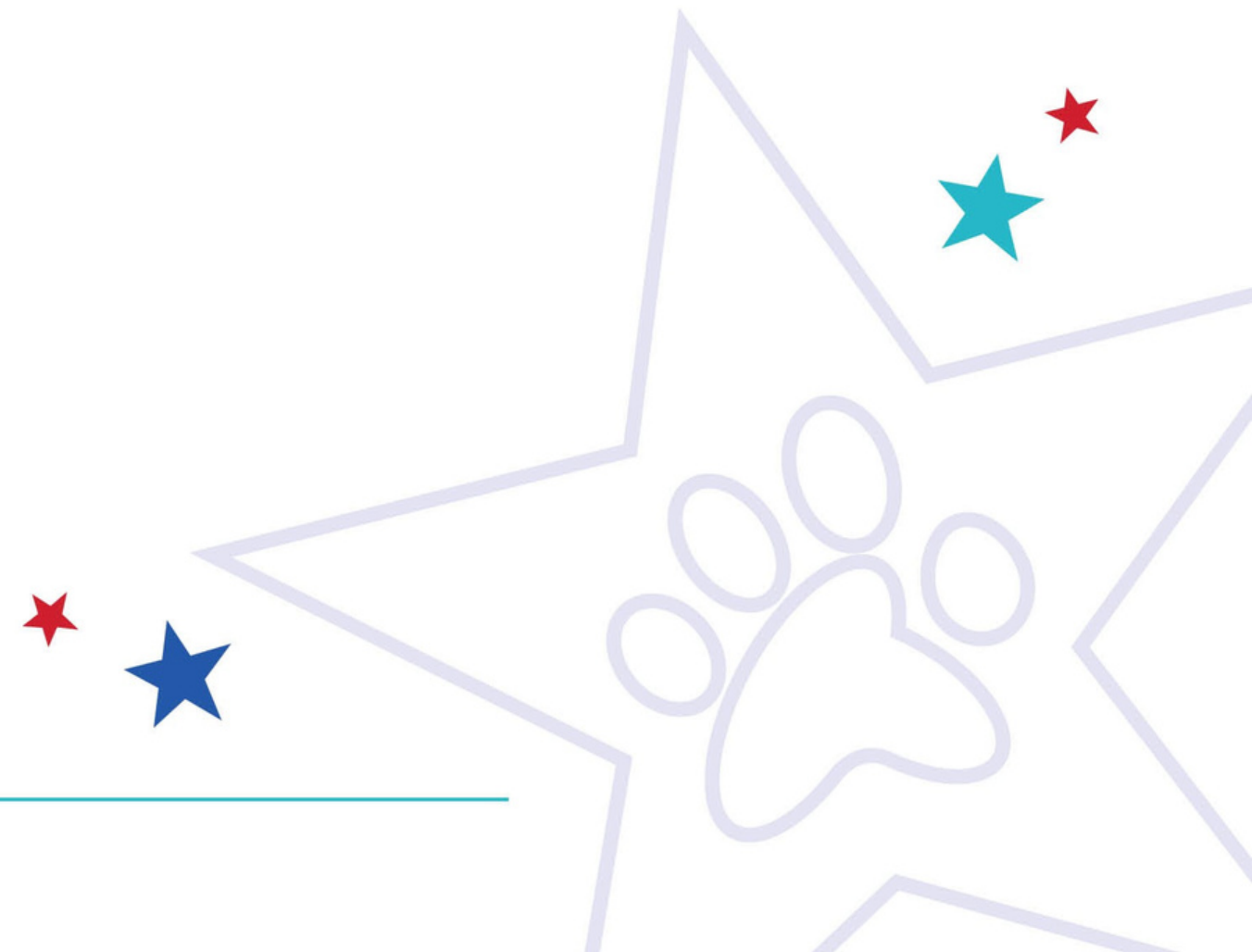
## BLUE ZONE

- gathering info
- arcs towards trigger
- ears up
- focused eyes
- air-scenting
- disengages easily





**When is your puppy in the  
blue zone?**





# Stay on the beach analogy

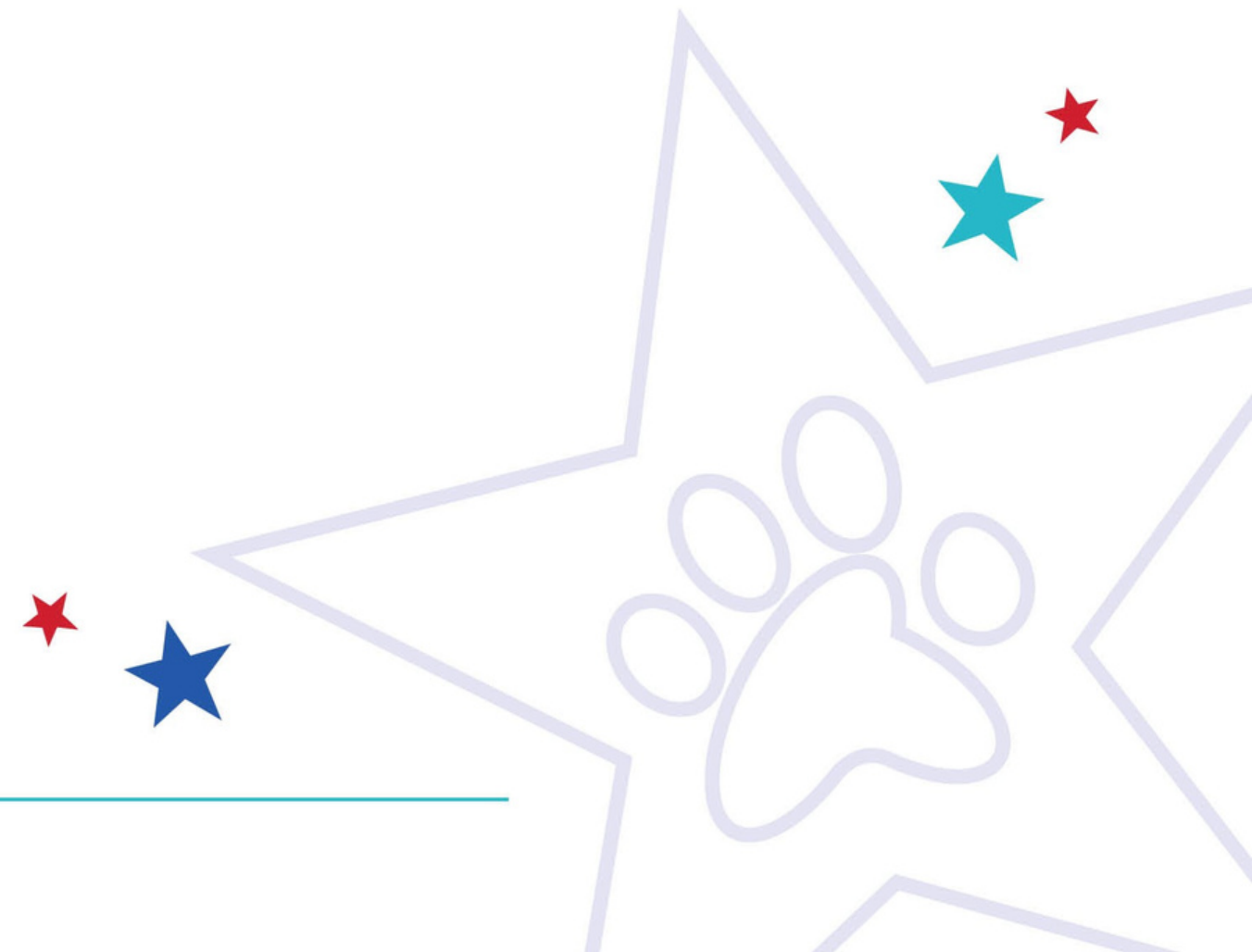
## YELLOW ZONE

- more than a few seconds to disengage
- weight shifted slightly back
- confidence is going back up
- avoiding trigger somewhat
- still able to look at trigger
- Tail low





**When is your puppy in the  
yellow zone?**





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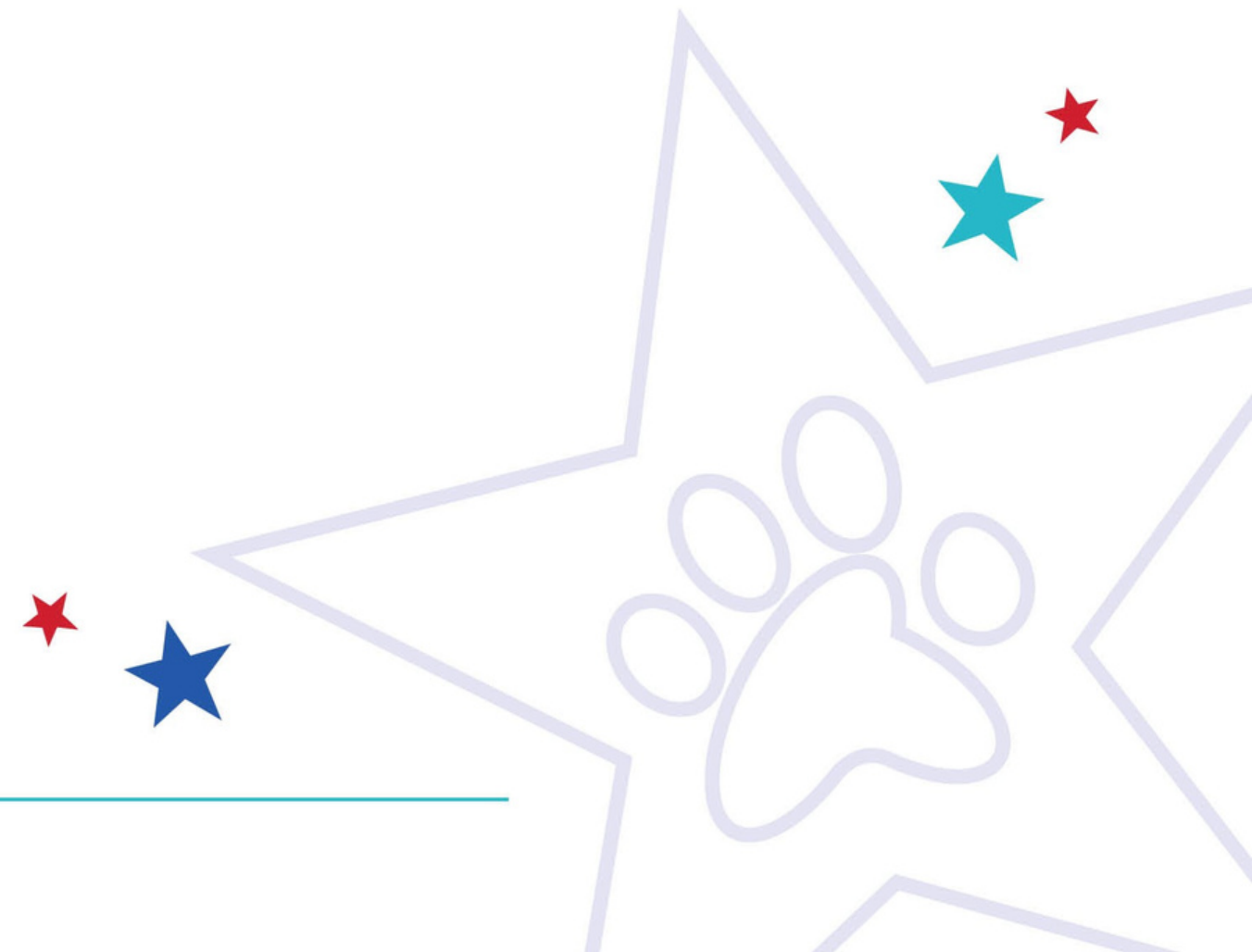
## ORANGE ZONE

- weight shifted far back
- preparing to run away
- tail tucked under
- ears pinned back
- crouched down
- pickier about food
- pupil dilation





**Has your puppy been in the orange zone?  
If so, where?**





# Stay on the beach analogy

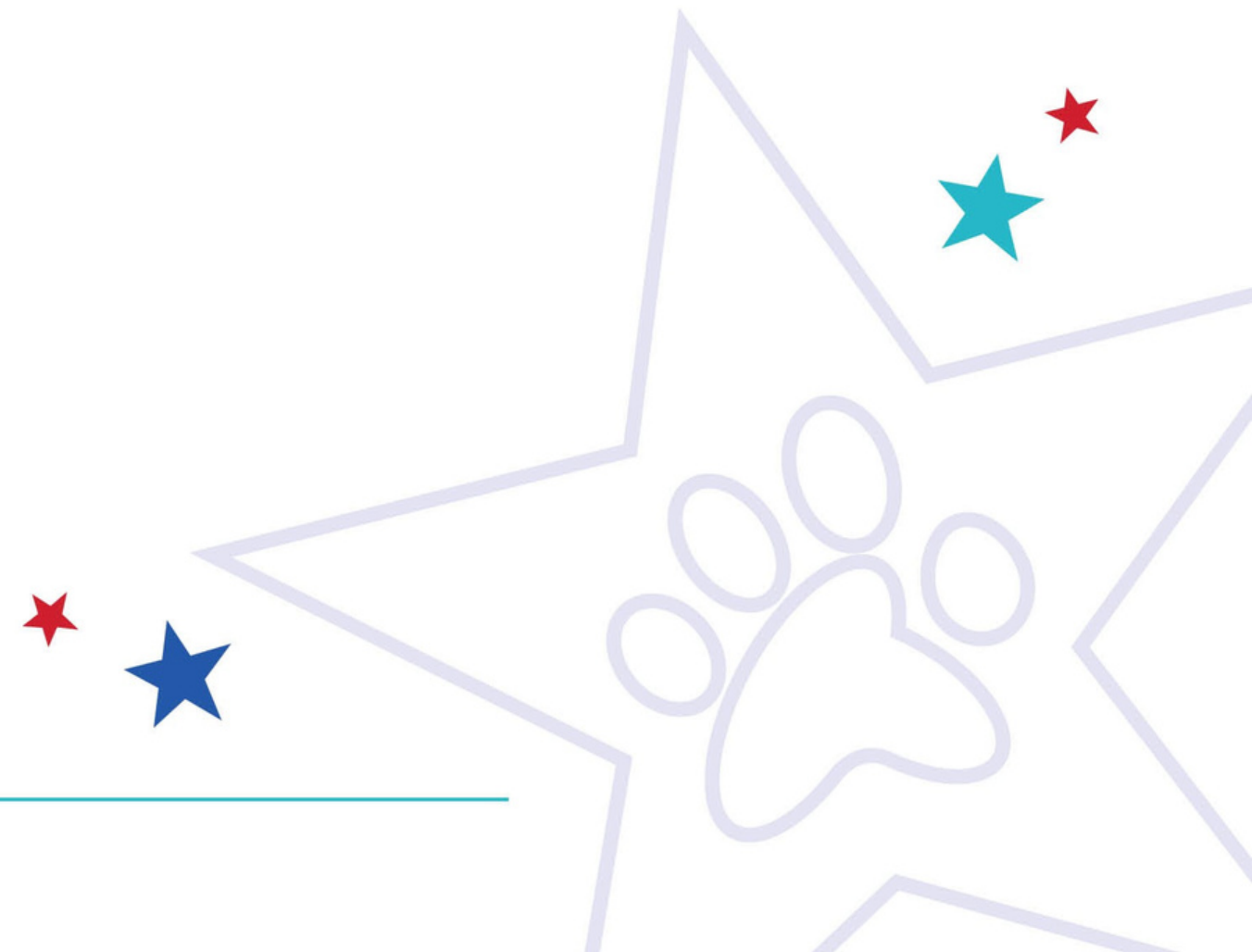
## RED ZONE

- unable to eat
- dry panting
- shivering
- drooling
- running from trigger
- barking





**Has your puppy been in the  
red zone?**



# Q&A

