

# Dogs Trivia



WORLD  
ANIMAL  
PROTECTION

 **Dogs wag their tails more to the right when they are experiencing positive emotions and to the left when they are feeling anxious and nervous.**

Siniscalchi, M., Lusito, R., Vallortigara, G., & Quaranta, A. (2013). Seeing Left- or Right-Asymmetric Tail Wagging Produces Different Emotional Responses in Dogs. *Current Biology*, 23(22), 2279-2282.

 **Dogs show a greater emotional response to humans when they cry compared to when they talk.**

Custance, D., & Mayer, J. (2012). Empathic-like responding by domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) to distress in humans: An exploratory study. *Animal Cognition*, 15(5), 851-859.

 **Dogs and humans have similar brain mechanisms to process social information including emotive vocalisations.**

Andics, A., Gácsi, M., Faragó, T., Kis, A., & Miklósi, Á. (2014). Voice-Sensitive Regions in the Dog and Human Brain Are Revealed by Comparative fMRI. *Current Biology*, 24(5), 574-578.

 **Research has shown that dogs express jealousy when their owners display affectionate behaviour towards other dogs.**

Harris, C. R., & Prouvost, C. (2014). Jealousy in Dogs. *PLoS ONE*, 9(7).

 **Dogs recognise their owner's face upon hearing their voice.**

Adachi, I., Kuwahata, H., & Fujita, K. (2007). Dogs recall their owner's face upon hearing the owner's voice. *Animal Cognition*, 10(1), 17-21.

 **Dogs have evolved to read human facial expressions and emotions in the same way that people do.**

Racca, A., Guo, K., Meints, K., & Mills, D. S. (2012). Reading faces: differential lateral gaze bias in processing canine and human facial expressions in dogs and 4-year-old children. *PLoS One*, 7(4).

 **Dominant dogs will display subordinate behaviours and bow to entice others to play. Establishing and reinforcing social bonds within the pack.**

Bauer, E. B., & Smuts, B. B. (2007). Cooperation and competition during dyadic play in domestic dogs, *Canis familiaris*. *Animal Behaviour*, 73(3), 489-499.

 Domestic dogs outperform chimpanzees when using human social cues to find food. Even puppies as young as a few weeks old were able to use cues such as pointing, head movements and tone of voice suggesting that these social-cognitive abilities may be evolutionarily imbedded within them as opposed to a learnt skill by each individual.

Hare, B., Brown, M., Williamson, C., & Tomasello, M. (2002). The domestication of social cognition in dogs. *Science*, 298(5598), 1634-1636.

 As in humans, higher oxytocin levels in dogs make them perceive the world in a more positive way. A study was done where scientists measured a dog's expectation of a food reward and found dogs with higher oxytocin levels ran faster towards a potential food source, where dogs with lower oxytocin levels were more sceptical of the situation.

Kis, A., Hernádi, A., Kanizsár, O., Gácsi, M., & Topál, J. (2015). Oxytocin induces positive expectations about ambivalent stimuli (cognitive bias) in dogs. *Hormones and behavior*, 69, 1-7.

 **Recordings of dog laughter reduces stress in shelter dogs.**

Simonet, P., Versteeg, D., & Storie, D. (2005). Dog-laughter : Recorded playback reduces stress related behavior in shelter dogs. Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Environmental Enrichment, 16.

 **It is well known that dogs have a great sense of smell, used to find drugs and explosive, but did you know, dogs are now being used to find rare and endangered species for conservation actions. They can locate bears by their scats in North America and even find individual tigers in Russia.**

Browne, C., Stafford, K., & Fordham, R. (2006). The use of scent-detection dogs. Irish Veterinary Journal, 59(2), 97104.

 **Female dogs have better eyesight then males.**

Müller, C. A., Mayer, C., Dörrenberg, S., Huber, L., & Range, F. (2011). Female but not male dogs respond to a size constancy violation. Biology Letters, 7(5), 689-91

 **Contrary to popular belief, dogs do not see in black and white, but can see in shades of red and green.**

Neitz, J., Geist, T., & Jacobs, G. H. (1989). Color vision in the dog. Visual Neuroscience, 3(02), 119-125.

 **Dogs process language in the left hemisphere of the brain, and emotion in the right hemisphere of the brain, in the same way as humans do.**

Ratcliffe, V. F., & Reby, D. (2014). Orienting Asymmetries in Dogs Responses to Different Communicatory Components of Human Speech. *Current Biology*, 24(24), 2908-2912.

 **Dogs show empathy towards their playmates! This is demonstrated when they mimic their behaviour.**

Palagi, E., Nicotra, V., & Cordoni, G. (2015). Rapid mimicry and emotional contagion in domestic dogs. *Royal Society Open Science*, 2(12)..

 **Audiobooks have a calming effect on dogs housed in kennels! When dogs are given audio books to listen to they perform less stress related behaviours.**

Brayley, C., & Montrose, V. T. (2016). The effects of audiobooks on the behaviour of dogs at a rehoming kennels. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 174, 111115

 **Dogs have individual maternal styles that affects the behaviour and temperament of the pups later in life.**

Foyer, P., Wilsson, E., & Jensen, P. (2016). Levels of maternal care in dogs affect adult offspring temperament. *Scientific Reports*, 6.



**Dogs are highly skilled at understanding human gestures, and adapt their behaviour depending on how reliable they view the human to be.**

Takaoka, A., Maeda, T., Hori, Y., & Fujita, K. (2014). Do dogs follow behavioral cues from an unreliable human? *Animal Cognition*, 18(2), 475-483.



**Dogs use their previous memories of human emotional expressions to discriminate facial expressions – even when they only see one half of the human's face!**

Müller, C. A., Schmitt, K., Barber, A. L. A., & Huber, L. (2015). Dogs Can Discriminate Emotional Expressions of Human Faces. *Current Biology*, 25(5), 601-605.



**Dogs are one of the few species of animals who engage in playful well into adulthood. They often play socially with other dogs and people, or object play by themselves.**

Bradshaw, J. W. S., Pullen, A. J., & Rooney, N. J. (2015). Why do adult dogs “play”? *Behavioural Processes*, 110, 82-7.



**Dogs can successfully mimic their owners actions on command 24hr after observing it; showing that they have long-term declaritive memories of others actions.**

Fugazza, C., Pogány, Á., & Miklósi, Á. (2016). Do as I ... Did! Long-term memory of imitative actions in dogs (*Canis familiaris*). *Animal Cognition*, 19(2), 263-269.



**Recent research has shown that dogs have nostril preferences for different types of odours. They use their right nostril to investigated odours from other dogs but use the left nostril to sniff human odours. This suggests, for the first time, that dogs use different sensory pathways and different brain areas to recognise emotion communication of other dogs and humans.**

Siniscalchi, M., DIngeo, S., & Quaranta, A. (2016). The dog nose "knows" fear: asymmetric nostril use during sniffing at canine and human emotional stimuli. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 304, 344-351.



Similar to humans, anxiety in dogs can be caused by early life experiences such as little maternal care or socialisation. Additionally, anxiety related behaviours can be reduced with an increase in daily exercise.

Tiira, K., & Lohi, H. (2015). Early Life Experiences and Exercise Associate with Canine Anxieties. PloS One, 10(11).

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