

from:

My Canine Companion, LLC

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IT'S A DOG'S LIFE



Highlights

What Can a Dog Learn?

- * To retrieve an object based on a picture
- * The name for new objects by listening to a conversation between two people
- * Over 1,000 different words identifying various objects
- * To calculate and navigate spatial shortcuts for the shortest route from point A to point B
- * How to distinguish what items belong to the toy vs. non-toy category
- * To estimate quantities - such as the difference between 5 items as opposed to 2 items
- * To copy human behavior and movement

As reported by
Duke University, 2015



LIVING WITH DOGS

Will Work for Food

Does your dog scarf down food in mere seconds? Then both of you are missing out!

For dogs, eating should be work. First of all because searching and hunting for food is natural for canines whose ancestors spent the majority of their time this way. And second of all—and here's the major benefit to you—switching to a work-to-eat strategy keeps your dog wonderfully occupied when you're busy or during your absences. That means he won't be chewing the couch cushions, getting into the trash, or barking up a storm at squirrels.

Instead of just serving up your dog's meals in a bowl; try feeding him in treat puzzles or Kongs. This is a good way to help distract and occupy him when you're about to leave home. Now your dog will spend a portion of his day retrieving his food and the



This pup is happily engaged while eating his meal

rest sleeping off the mental effort. The result? A calmer, more content dog.

The key to a successful work-to-eat program is to start gradually increasing the level of difficulty. You can use interactive food toys like Buster-Cubes and Kongs. Kongs in particular are great because you can easily make the

food retrieval task more difficult—and more rewarding—by varying the type of stuffing and the tightness of the layers.

An easy Kong may contain kibble and be plugged by peanut butter or wet food. An advanced Kong can be stuffed with multiple layers of food and then frozen for more of a challenge.

SELECTING A CANINE COMPANION

Selecting your new best friend can be a very emotional event; those puppy dog eyes, the cute wagging tail.

Even the most logical person can have difficulty looking past the adorable package to think about whether you're ready to adopt a dog or pup.

And whether a particular dog or pup is the right one for you, your family, and your lifestyle.

One of the most common mistakes people make when adopting a dog is to select one based on their looks rather than the personality.

Your next furry best friend may live with you for decade or more. So this isn't a decision that you want to rush into. Some planning and research could help reduce your chances of disappointment and heartache later on.

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"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself."

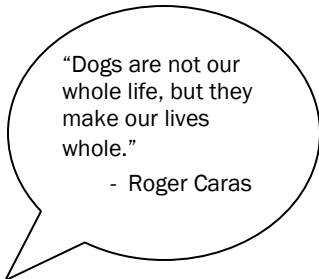
- Josh Billings



Test Your Dog Smarts!

1. How many teeth does a dog have?
2. Through what part of the body do dogs sweat?
3. What is a dog's most highly developed sense?
4. What breed of dog yodels instead of barks?
5. How old was the oldest dog who ever lived?
6. What is the largest breed of dog in the world?
7. What is the most popular breed of dog, according to the American Kennel Club's registrations?
8. What was name of the dog on the front of the Cracker Jacks box?

(answers on page 4)



SUMMER IT HERE, AND IT'S HOT OUTSIDE!

If you and your best friend will be spending time outdoors, make sure that you watch your dog closely for signs of overheating and heat stroke.

Heat stroke will cause nausea, loss of consciousness, brain damage, and even death to your dog. So, make sure your dog has access to a nice, shady place to cool off, with plenty of fresh water to keep him cool and hydrated.

When it's really hot outside—even a casual walk can lead to heat stroke especially if your dog is older or out of shape. Keep your exercise routine to early morning or evenings when it's cooler.

Never leave you dog in your car during hot weather. Dogs left in cars, even with the window cracked open, can overheat very quickly during the summer.

Here's how to recognize heat stoke in your dog:

- Excessive panting
- Redness around his eyes
- Showing signs of weakness or collapsing
- Irritability
- Vomiting

Cool you dog down immediately by giving him COOL - not cold water. Cold water may make him vomit. Try to

sponge him down with a cool wet towel and keep a fan on him. Soak him in a tub of cool water.

Vehicle Temperature		
Outside	Inside	Time to Reach
75	100	10 minutes
75	120	30 minutes
85	90	5 minutes
85	100	7-10 minutes
85	120	30 minutes
100	140	15 minutes

If your dog's gums are grayish and his tongue looks blue—call your veterinarian immediately. Severe heatstroke is an emergency.

SUCCESSFUL TRAINING

One of the frequent sources of frustration is dog training. Dogs are so intelligent in so many ways, that we tend to believe that they can think like a human.

When they don't properly respond to our cues, many people believe their dog may simply be lazy or stubborn.

During training you may find yourself exasperated. So here's a primer on what it takes to successfully train your dog:

Patience: One basic training class won't do it. You wouldn't expect a child to become an accomplished musician in a semester of classes. Just like



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The best way to begin the process is to research a variety of breeds so that you know their "hardwired" characteristics.

Every pure breed of dog has characteristics that typically accompany that breed. Knowing what these traits are may help you decide if a particular breed or breed type may be a good match for you and your lifestyle.

And if you decide on a mixed breed instead of a purebred, it can be helpful to know what breed characteristics it might have based on its heritage as well.

There are not guarantees that a dog will exactly match a breed standard, but doing your research on a breed will stack the odds in your favor.



ARE TWO BETTER THAN ONE?

That is the question! Living with multiple dogs can be double the pleasure and double the fun. But sharing your life with more than one dog is not without its challenges.

For instance, training time is doubled. When it comes to training, dogs learn better when you work with them individually. Whether it's training a fun new trick, loose leash walking or polite visitor greetings. Multiple dogs just can't perform well together until they master a behavior by themselves first.

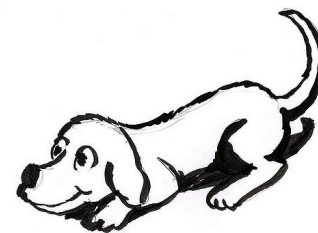
We want our dogs to get along

and enjoy being with each other. But, it's possible to create too much of a good thing. Dogs that spend all day everyday together often become so bonded that they experience extreme anxiety when their fur buddy is away.

Something as simple as choosing to take one dog for a walk and not the other can become a very stressful experience for the dog left at home. So practice walking each dog separately from the very beginning. And be sure to leave a wonderful chew bone or stuffed Kong for



the dog that stays at home. If you practice crate training, make sure each dog has and uses his own crate. Finally, be sure to integrate "apart time" into your dogs' daily routine .



Healthy Dog Tips

How To Pill Your Dog

If you can, sneak pills into your dog either by getting chewable medication from your vet, mixing the meds in with your dog's meal, or sticking the pill inside a soft treat like cream cheese or a small piece of hot dog. If that doesn't work, then follow this easy procedure to pill your pup:

1. Hold the pill with one hand. Place the hand on your dog's lower jaw, the other on his upper jaw. Lift up his head gently, so his muzzle is angled upward.
2. Open your dog's mouth and put the pill to the side of the tongue as far back as you can reach. Quickly remove your hand and close your dog's jaw.
3. Keep your dog's head tilted upward and his jaws closed. Encourage him to swallow by gently stroking his throat downward with the other hand. As soon as you think your dog has swallowed the pill, release him and offer him a yummy treat.

(courtesy of the ASPCA)

ON THE ROAD

Planes, trains & automobiles. It was the best of times; it was the worst of times . . .

This can be what traveling with your dog becomes. Traveling can be a joy for everyone in the family, including the dog, if you prepare your pup in advance.

Basic training is your best foundation for a happy, safe

travel experience for both you and your dog. Making sure your dog has been exposed to a group training class can help your dog enjoy new experiences without fear.

On a trip there will be unfamiliar locations, sights, sounds, smells, people and other dogs. Are you certain of how your dog will react?

If you are planning a trip or vacation and have any doubts about your dog's behavior, be sure to contact a trainer well in advance of your departure date.



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a child, your dog needs continued training to succeed.

Repetition: Dogs don't generalize well. This means they need to learn the same lesson ("don't jump on people") in many different settings, not just in your home.

Motivation: This is what drives your dog to do things, like responding to your cues. And no, contrary to popular belief,

making us happy is not a strong motivator for dogs.

When training, food is used as a primary motivator. But in many cases, kibble won't do. Dogs want to be paid more than "minimum wage" just like people.

So choose something special to use as a training treat. Then only offer it to your dog when you are training. And

keep in mind that dogs need their treat "paychecks" immediately to reinforce the behaviors they perform on cue.

Using real life rewards like car rides, ball toss, and going for walks are also an option.





For more class information, scheduling and registration visit us at:

www.canine-adventure.com
and click on:
"Services"

"Information and advice provide in this newsletter is general in nature and should not be relied upon to solve any particular situation. For all issues with your dog, please seek the services of a competent professional. The author and publisher shall have neither liability nor responsibility for any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused by the information in this newsletter."

OUR CLASS OFFERINGS

- **AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy** (for pups up to 10 months old)
- **Canine Companion: Basic** (for all dogs 6 months or older)
- **Beyond the Treat** (for all non-reactive dogs 1 year or older)
- **Canine Challenge** (for all dogs who have completed a basic class)
- **AKC Canine Good Citizen & TPU Therapy Dog** (for dogs 1 year or older)
- **Canine Freestyle: Move with the Music** (for all non-reactive dogs that have completed a group class)
- **Canine Scent Work** (for dogs that are non-aggressive towards people)
- **Agility Foundation Skills** (for dogs who have completed a basic class)
- **Beginner Agility** (for dogs who have completed *Agility Foundation Skills*)
- **Treibball** (*New! beginning spring 2017*)

OUR TRAINING AND BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

- **Private Training** (providing an individualized program for you & your dog)
- **Consults** (dealing with inappropriate behavior and training issues)
- **Temperament Testing** (helping you choose the perfect little puppy)
- **Dognition Testing** (revealing your dog's thinking & cognitive skills)
- **Assessment** (gauging what's below the surface in a pre-adoptive dog)

➔ For training and behavioral services call or email Deb DeSilva



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"Cultivating Canine Companionship"

My Canine Companion, LLC

Answers to :

"Test Your Dog Smarts" on p. 2:

1. 42;
2. Paws;
3. Smell
4. Basenji;
5. 29 yrs, 5 mo
6. Irish Wolfhound
7. Labrador Retriever
8. Bingo



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