

## 1 **Dogs – Instincts, Emotion and Body Language**

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## 2 **Just a little ethology...**

### 3 **What is a dog**

- Is a dog a wolf?
  - Research shows that dogs are directly descended from wolves and share the same DNA

### 4 **Wolves**

- Wolf life
  - They're tribal. Wolf packs are just a big family - parents, children, grand children
  - Puppies are progeny of the parents, but are cared for by the rest of the family

### 5 **The Wolf Pack**

- Hierarchy
  - Common to both species, a hierarchy is necessary to raising a family finding food, and keeping the peace
  - If stable, held in place by tradition and resource control, and by ritualized affection and aggression
- The Leader
  - Can be experienced and wise
  - Can be benign
  - Can be a jerk
  - Can be overthrown

### 6 **The Alpha**

- I'm sure you've all heard of that...as a basis of certain kinds of training, among other things
- Well, whether that is an effective training tool is one question...the wolf pack led by the Alpha is another.
- David Mech, the famous wolf biologist, essentially invented the term, and here's what he says about it.
  - DAVID MECH

7 8  **But dogs are not wolves, so what the heck happened?**9  **Missing Link**

- There are several theories
  - The traditional theory is that little cave kids found a wolf pup, or took one out of a litter and raised it....
  - Another is that wolves and people began cooperating - we had better eyesight and could fashion weapons; wolves had better ears, noses, and ...teeth

10  **Coppinger's theory**

- Less fearful wolves gathered around the perimeter of villages, eating the trash and vermin that collected
- As these animals bred, their appearance changed; sometimes their ears dropped, their coat colors changed, etc

11  **Coppinger**

- This point of view is given credibility by various other biologists, who have studied the amount of genetic mutation brought about by human intervention, whether voluntary or involuntary

12  **Dog Development**

- Theory of dog neotenization
  - Adult dogs retain the appearance of puppies
  - And the behavior of juveniles
    - Barking
    - Persistent play behavior
    - Investigation of novel environments
    - Staying at the rendezvous site
  - Experiments with foxes about 20 years ago in Russia showed how quickly socializing wild canids to human intervention changes outward appearance.

13  **Movie**14  **Pariah dogs – the Primitives**

- ⊙ Pariah dogs still exist, mostly in third world countries. The majority are homeless, and live on the outskirts of villages or around

garbage dumps. Some are still going through the process of “domestication” - and becoming legitimate “breeds.”

### 15 Pariah dogs

- Pariah dogs tend to fit a behavior profile that is quite different from many of our breeds.
  - Packs are very loosely formed, not a tight family structure, like wolves.
  - All dogs can and do mate - as often as possible!
  - Slightly afraid of people, but social and resilient
  - Little territorial aggression
  - Wait for food to appear

### 16 Resource Driven Behavior

- Packs...
  - Wolves, Coyotes and Dogs will form packs when they need to...and will reduce the pack size to one or two if necessary
  - This is dependent on the amount of food and other resources easily available
    - Large prey needs large packs
    - Small prey needs small families

### 17 Village dogs

- Do not tend to form packs, because most of the available food is easily available, small and of low quality
  - A smaller body is more fuel efficient
  - Less movement requires less fuel
  - Village dogs tend to just hang about a lot!

### 18 Village Dog Aggression

- A study by Majumber done in 2014 studied almost 2000 street dogs in India
  - 90% hanging out
  - 10% foraging and sexual behavior
  - No aggression whatsoever
- *(My take on this is the dogs are on a starvation diet, and there are no good resources to horde or fight over. However, we may also use some of this information in our recommendations for clients and the amount they exercise their dogs)*

19  **Former Village dogs – now with names!**

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21  **Both of these dogs actually came from a third world country**

- We want them to be breeds SO MUCH. So they are called Formosan Mountain Dogs

22  **Village Dogs**

- Now there are MANY more street dogs...brought in from Taiwan (Formosan Mountain Dogs) from Korea (Korean Meat Dogs) from Russia, Colombia, Puerto Rico and on and on
  - Much more on this later, but we need to think more about what we are doing and be more prepared, cognizant and realistic about what may or may not be possible.

23  **Bindi**

24  **Wolves (and dogs) Predators**

- ...and opportunistic scavengers
- Hunters of animals larger or smaller than themselves
  - Size of pack depends on size and availability of prey
- Hunting behavior - Predators
  - Movement sparks prey drive in *all predators*

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Hunting

Eye – stalk – chase – catch – kill – eat

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29  **Hunting Behavior is Driven by Resources**

- The larger the prey, the bigger the pack, the smaller the prey, the smaller the pack --- until you get to no pack at all

30  **Flight Distance**

- Critical to understanding all animals!

- Flight distance is the amount of space an animal needs in order to feel safe
  - The more fearful the animal is, the more space it needs
  - Fight/Flight/Tend Befriend
  - In most cases, the larger the animal, the less they will have a tendency to flight – even prey animals (cows, elephants)
  - Dogs are predator and prey, so they have both responses (actually all three)
- 31  **The American Kennel Club**
- Now recognizes 190 breeds of dogs
    - Where did these dogs come from?
- 32  **Our dogs**
- If we suddenly stopped breeding dogs as breeds, they would likely return to the “look” of a pariah dog
  - Which could be why it’s difficult for us to identify breeds!
- 33  **Puppies look the same**
- What breed?
- 34  **Breeding - The Royal Family’s Noses**
- 35  **On the other hand.....Genetics – Variability Abounds**
- 36  **Dog Breeding – Families**
- Most breeds were bred for specific jobs – no matter what they looked like
    - Herding
    - Hunting – retrieving
    - Flock Guards
    - Pest control
    - Protection
    - War
  - Many still retain the behavioral characteristics of their forebears, though we now breed for looks - more on breeds later
- 37  **Domestication vs Taming**
- Domestication is a long process, extending over generations
    - Dogs actually domesticated us, choosing to live amongst people

for their own reasons

–In order for domestication to continue, the process must be replicated in each generation

–Feral animals are those in which the socialization process did not occur – skipping one, two or more generations

●Taming is the process of helping one wild or feral animal acclimate to our society – it is not domestication!

38  **Domestication can be fragile**

- If a dog (or a cat) does not have appropriate experiences during certain periods of time during the brain growth, it is very difficult – if not impossible – to complete the process
  - In that case, you are sometimes taming a semi-feral animal, as opposed to socializing a domestic one

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40  **Domestication likely encourages neoteny**

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47  **The Basics**

- Sleep
- Stimulation
- Exercise
- Food
- Social interaction
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48  **Development**

- Growth periods - Dogs go through several well-defined periods in their journey from puppy hood to adult dog
- K9\_teacher@icloud.com

49  **Puppies**

- Neonatal (birth to 8 weeks)
  - Imprinting
  - Maternal behavior and it's effect on puppies
- Juveniles (8 to 20 weeks)
  - Exploratory
    - Play as learning
    - Sensitization periods - windows for quick learning, previously thought to occur at regular intervals, now considered to be long lasting

50  **Adolescence (20 weeks +)**

- Status seeking - pushy, demanding
- Continuation of exploring/experimenting behaviors - can be VERY DESTRUCTIVE
- Sometimes practice aggression (not very good at it) (all young behavior is preparatory for adult behavior)
- Energetic

51  **Adults**

- Continuation of adolescent behavior, if allowed or encouraged to progress

52  **Growth and Socialization Needs**54  **In order to succeed, the young need to be prepared**55  **Socialization – Puppies**

- The first socialization window
  - Starts at 3 weeks when puppies first respond to sounds
  - Ends at 12 weeks, when dedicated receptors in the brain close down
    - If the puppy has not had the requisite exposure during this time it is not retrievable (which isn't to say that you give up ☺)
    - During this time, pups need to learn how to interact with other puppies, adult dogs and with with people

56 57  **Socialization**

- The second socialization window closes at four months – 16 weeks
  - As above, the puppy needs to have had substantive exposure in order for optimal brain growth
- 16+ weeks
  - Brain growth continues, but slows down through adolescence, which ends somewhere around 1.5 years (less for some, more for others)

#### 58 **Puppy Socialization**

- The temperament and experiences of the mother have a strong influence on the behavior of the puppies
- Three week old puppies

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#### 60 **Social Behavior**

- Assertive behavior develops first
  - Competition for food and attention
  - Aggressive to other pups (of course, they don't have teeth)

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#### 62 **Puppy Social Behaviors**

- Deferential behaviors (peace making) come because they must
  - Mom or other pups discipline – puppies learn to cry uncle
  - Primarily aimed at the mom, generalized to anyone who seems to represent force or authority
    - Spontaneous urination
    - Flipping on back (displaying inguinal area)
    - Squatting
    - Raising Paw
    - Licking lips of other dog
    - Eye contact avoidance
- Puppies separated from their moms too soon may never learn deference...which will dramatically impede social skills as they age

#### 63 **Puppies learn to get what they need – and how to avoid consequences**

64 65 66 67 68  **Young Puppy Problems**

- Singleton pups and pups separated from their moms too soon have similar problems
  - Unable to handle frustration (tantrums)
  - Not used to any kind of competition for food
    - Singletons get all their mom's milk
    - Separated pups are usually bottle fed til they're full
  - Often physically over-sensitive, since no one has been pushing them around!

69  **Neotenzation**

- The more wolfy a dog looks, the more wolfy (adult-like) he acts
- Behaviors that develop at an early age may be apparent, but not those that develop later
  - Aggressive/assertive behavior develops early in puppyhood
  - Submissive/appeasing/deferential behaviors develop later Thus, dogs such as huskies have a full repertoire of behaviors; Cavaliers have very few
    - Avoidance/submissive behaviors

70  **What are the effects of lack of socialization?**

- Generalized fear
- Difficulty in exploring environments
- Inability to adjust to new situations
- Overreaction to normal sounds/sights
- Extreme territoriality
- Over attachment to guardians/owners or other dogs in household
- Aggression to anything strange
  - Under socialized pups

71  **Under socialized puppies**

72  **Puppies grow FAST!**

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- A 16 week old puppy is the canine equivalent of a 16 year old human in the amount of brain development he has undergone.
- By the time a dog is a year old, the vast majority of her behavior patterns have been solidified, and changes will require new neural pathways
- People often believe that they can 'socialize' an adult dog that has been neglected for its entire life

73  **When you hear people discussing the socialization of an adult dog**

- They are not talking about the same type of learning that a puppy is undergoing – and the dog will not be able to learn as much as fast

74  **What are the most important things to a dog**

- The society - for without it there are no resources
- The territory - for without it there are no resources

75  **Social interaction**

- Pack Structure
  - Dogs need to create order in the world – they need clarity – who provides food, who provides play
    - Dogs see humans as members of their pack and will interact with people as they would with other pups
- Status seekers -
  - Some dogs will seek higher status if there's a vacancy at the top - HOWEVER
    - Most dogs - like most people - can be very happy as a worker bee

76  **The concept of Dominance**

- People use the term "dominant" to describe certain behavioral characteristics... including
  - Confidence
  - Posturing
    - Stand overs
    - Mounting
    - Muzzle punches

- Body Slamming
- Certain kinds of possession

#### 77 **Dominance**

- Dominance is real – it’s just more specific –it’s Social Dominance
  - Control of all the resources he or she wants when he or she wants it
    - Resources include
      - Food
      - Space
      - Toys
      - Attention
  - If there are no resources in question, there’s generally no dominance
- Sibs with Food
  - (who’s going to win vid)

#### 78 **Dominance**

- Dominance can shift from dog to dog, depending on the desired resources
  - Two Rotties – one insecure dominant wannabe
    - Controlled all the resources in the house, but was too afraid to do so outside of the house
    - The other dog didn’t care, so there were no issues
- In many multi-dog homes, there is a strong leader dog
  - This dog is usually – but not always – stable, and there is no confrontation
  - Unstable leaders (like the Rottie above) see threats where there are none
- Dogs are not generally dominant to strangers - though they can act in a “domineering” or bullying fashion – especially adolescents

#### 79 **A Glimpse into Body Language**

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#### 82 **Postures all Grown Up**

- Dogs use a variety of postures to communicate their intentions –

from submissive and appeasing to confident and overwhelming

### 83 **Communication**

- Geared at keeping the peace in a community

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- In most, but not all cases, the leader doesn't impose, he is acknowledged, and peace is maintained

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- Signals from the subordinate

- Appeasement and cut off signals

- Licking
- Groveling
- Flipping over
- Squinting
- Folding ears
- Play bows,

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Signals from the leader

- Staring, stand overs, mouth holds, taking space

- All signals have to be very clear or be subject to misinterpretation

- The more confident a dog is the less he or she needs to use body language

- » You may have noticed this if you've been bitten by a confident dog – the warnings are very subtle

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- Play helps dogs practice appropriate communication

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- Dogs can and often are ambivalent – giving conflicting signals at the same time

### 85 **Signaling to keep peace**

- Canine Corrections

- Many people want adult dogs to correct obnoxious youngsters

- Take care – many dogs don't know how to correct, and many others don't know how to take corrections

- *Dog Park Body Language*

- Many dogs seem to feel compelled to set up a relationship with any new dog they meet

86 87 88 89  **Space**90 91 92  **Pressure**93 94  **Space Control**

- Cat/Dog Standoff
- Space control

95 96 97 98  **Gender differences in behavior**

- Lots of research, few hard facts...
  - Intact males tend to
    - Wander more
    - Bite more
    - Be more independent
  - Intact females
    - Are “normal” most of the year
    - Emotionally less stable during estrus

99  **The Senses**

- Vision
  - Dogs see *motion* much more clearly than stationary items
  - Dogs ability to see detail is about 6 times poorer than ours
  - Their color vision is different (less acute)

- But they can see further behind themselves

## 100 Smell

- Is the dog's most dominant sense
  - A dog's sense of smell is thought to be 100,000 times better than a humans
  - The canine brain has 40 forty times as much of its brain devoted to smell as do humans
  - Dogs have two giant olfactory bulbs attached to the brain which decode every smell they encounter, plus the Jacobson's organ for analyzing smells
  - Never underestimate the influence of smell on a dog's behavior
    - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4672279/>

## 101 Hearing

- A dog's hearing is more acute than a human's at both a lower volume and a higher frequency.
- In fact, dogs hear sounds at such a high frequency that humans can't hear them at all.

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