

Can dogs sense emotion?: Video Zone – exercises

Do you think your dog knows when you're happy, sad or angry? Watch this video to find out what scientists have discovered about the relationship between dogs and humans.

Do the preparation task. Then watch the video and do the exercises. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation: matching

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a – h next to the number 1 – 8.

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| 1..... randomly | a. a strong feeling such as love, hate, fear or anger |
| 2..... to express | b. to show a feeling |
| 3..... a bias | c. to notice or become aware of something |
| 4..... to tune into | d. the fact of preferring a particular subject or thing |
| 5..... emotion | e. done or chosen without any plan, system or pattern |
| 6..... to detect | f. to discover or notice something, especially something that is difficult to see, hear, smell, etc. |
| 7..... evidence | g. something that will help you to succeed |
| 8..... an advantage | h. something which shows that something else exists or is true |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Before this experiment, dog owners didn't think dogs could sense their emotions. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | The left and right sides of a person's face look different when the person is expressing an emotion. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | You can see how people really feel by looking at the left side of their face. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Scientists had thought that only humans had a left-gaze bias. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | In the experiment, dogs were only shown faces. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Dogs look left when shown another dog's face. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | Other animals also look left when looking at a human face. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | Being able to detect human emotions gives dogs a biological advantage. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: ordering

Write a number (1-6) to put these stages of the experiment in order.

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|-------|---|
| | Scientists prepared a series of images showing human faces, dog faces and inanimate objects. |
| | Eye-tracking software was used to show that people have a left-gaze bias when they look at human faces. |
| | Scientists recorded the direction of the dog's gaze with a video camera. |
| | The experiment showed that dogs also have a left-gaze bias when looking at a human face. |
| | Scientists decided to recreate this experiment with dogs. |
| | The dogs looked at the images. |

3. Check your grammar: gap fill – gerund or infinitive

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets to fill the gaps. Use a gerund or the infinitive form of the verb.

- When looking at a human face, we look left without _____ it. (know)
- Scientists wanted to find out if dogs use the same trick _____ human faces. (read)
- Scientists thought only humans had a left-gaze bias until they started _____ at dogs. (look)
- _____ the ability to detect human emotions is unique to dogs. (have)
- There may be a biological advantage in _____ to read people's emotions. (be able)
- It makes sense for a dog _____ a person when the person is smiling. (approach)

Discussion

Do you think your pet can sense emotion?

Do you have a close bond with your pet?