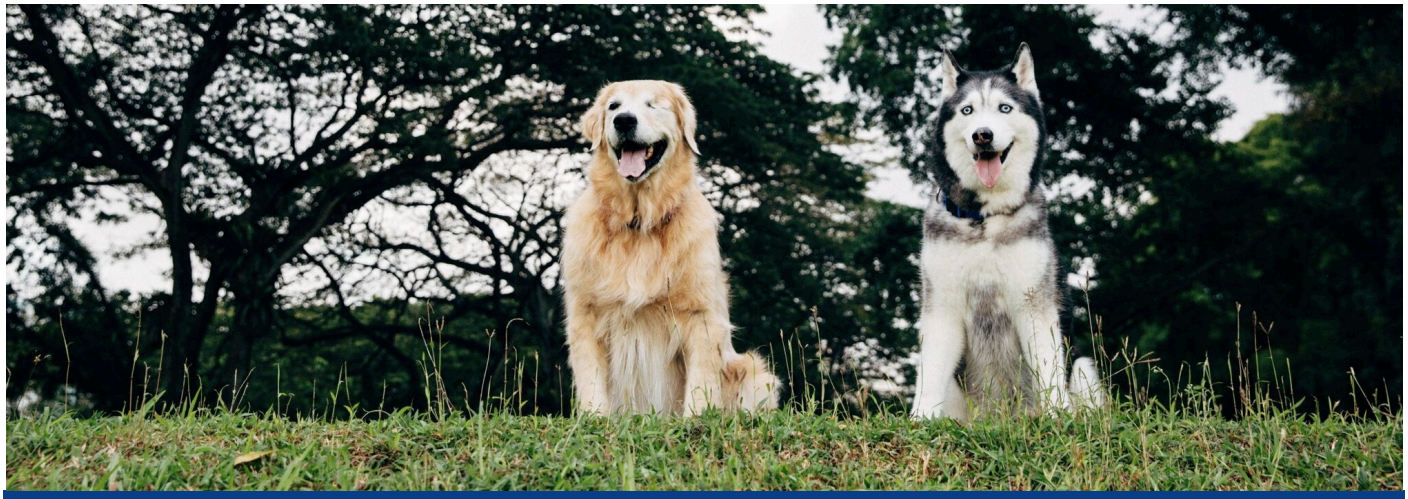


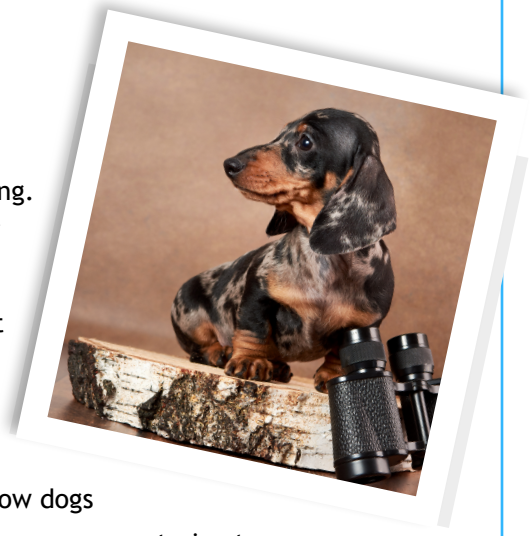
We continually update our skills and knowledge so that we stay current with the best practices that can help you and your dog.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

cheerful dogs, happy people

Issue 80

A World of Dogs: Does Your Dog Know If You're Nice?



Understanding the moral lives of animals can be mysterious and challenging. There is still much we don't know about how they perceive the actions of others, including ours. Do our dogs make moral judgements? Do they understand concepts such as altruism and selfishness? While we don't yet have the answers, there are some intriguing studies which attempt to explore these concepts.

One example is a 2015 study at Kyoto University which aimed to look at how dogs perceive sharing. In the first experiment dogs watched a scene in which a person was trying to open a can. When they weren't able to, they asked another person for help. In some trials, the second person would help while in others they would refuse. Sometimes there was also a third person present who would be neutral and do nothing at all.

During the second experiment the dogs watched two people turn up with three balls each. The first person would ask the other to give them all of their balls. The second person would agree and hand them over. They would then ask



Dog quotes

"We long for an affection altogether ignorant of our faults. Heaven has accorded this to us in the uncritical canine attachment." - **George Eliot**

cont.

… does your dog know?

them to be given back. In some instances, the first person would return the balls. In other instances, they would refuse. A bit like a conflicted game of fetch!

So, what did the researchers learn? At the end of each experiment those involved in the trials offered the dog a treat at the same time. In every scenario, dogs were happy to take a treat from the helpful or neutral person but were reluctant to receive a treat from those they saw acting 'selfishly.' The researchers suggested that dogs may make social judgments in very similar ways to human infants.

Does this show we should be on our best behaviour around our dogs? Dogs are masters of observation - they are constantly studying us and the world around them for clues and information. This skill allows them to live successfully alongside us and helps to keep them safe. So don't forget - your dog may be always watching!



Certified. Force-free. Dog-centred.
cheerfuldogswalking.com



Did You Know: These movie dogs?

Beasley. The big lovable Dogue de Bordeaux behind Hooch in the 1989 movie *Turner and Hooch*. Beasley got rave reviews from his co-star Tom Hanks, who called him an "Oscar-calibre actor."

Jed. This dog-wolf hybrid played *White Fang* in the 1991 eponymous movie based on Jack London's book about the friendship between a Yukon gold hunter and the mixed dog-wolf he rescues from abusers.

Hank. Training for his famous roller-skating scene in 1995's *The Truth About Cats and Dogs* took three months for this easy going Great Dane.

Arokat's Echobar Take Me Dancing. Playing high-maintenance pooch Beatrice in mockumentary *Best in Show* (2000) where five dog owners head for the Mayflower Kennel Club Dog Show probably came natural to this prize-winning Weimaraner.



Follow us

cheerfuldogs.com

Your go-to trainer for enlightened dog lovers

Website: cheerfuldogs.com

cheerfuldogswalking.com

Professional dog walking you can trust

Website: cheerfuldogswalking.com

Tel: 9630 3884

Email: cheerfuldogswalking@gmail.com

Save the environment, access our e-newsletters on our websites