

# Pet-Dog-Magazine



Published By John Clifford

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Hello, I hope you enjoy this report, I think there's some really interesting Dog Facts and answers to Dog Questions.

I get quite a few questions sent in from [website visitors](#) and I thought it would be a good idea to compile them in this report. Feel free to visit us anytime and don't forget to join up to the newsletter where I'll be providing answers and information on all kinds of Dog Subjects. Don't forget to [send in your Dog's Picture](#) and we'll put it up for everyone to enjoy.

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## 1. Why does my Dog lick me?

It is their way of exploring the world. Much in the same way, human children put everything into their mouths as well. Dogs can pick up a lot more information from what they touch with their tongues than we could. But it is also a sign of affection, as anyone with a dog can tell you. It is rare not to see a dog wagging its tail when he or she is licking someone he or she loves. Another explanation is that dogs enjoy the taste of salt and us humans excrete a lot of salty minerals through our skin. I still like my dogs kisses.

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## 2. How do Dogs smell things so well?

The two senses more developed in the dog are smell and hearing. The dogs brain in large part is dedicated to smell. A Dog's world is a world of scents. Its nasal passages are arranged to allow a greater volume of air to be drawn over the sensitive lining than in the case of men. Besides that dogs have sensory cells in their noses that respond to chemicals in the air. Rapid sniffs carry messages to the enlarged olfactory center in the brain where the scents are analyzed and cataloged. Most breeds have over 200 million scent receptors in comparison to humans which have 5 million.

From a practical point of view, there are some great advantages of dogs over other animals for odor tasks like landmine detection. Dogs take instructions readily from humans, they learn very quickly, and they are quite adaptable to different situations and environments.

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## 3. Why do Dogs Pant?

We know from our own experience that humans sweat to increase cooling by evaporation. Dogs, in contrast, have few sweat glands, and they cool primarily by panting - a very rapid, shallow breathing that increases evaporation from the upper respiratory tract.

Dogs don't sweat and even if they did, they are covered with fur so the fur would insulate them and keep the heat in. So they pant to get rid of excess heat from their bodies. The heat turns the water in their mouths into water vapor. In other words, the heat is used for a different purpose; instead of heating the dog's body, it is used to evaporate the water from the dog's mouth.

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## 4. Can Dogs really hear better than humans?

Dogs hear at a wider range of frequencies than humans. The low end of the range is similar, but dogs hear noises up to 45 kHz, while humans only hear sounds up to about 23 kHz. This means that they could be hearing and responding to sounds that we can't hear at all. Cats can hear sounds as high as 64 kHz, bats up to 110 kHz and porpoises up to 150 kHz!

Younger people and animals generally have more acute hearing than older ones. Deafness is not uncommon in old dogs and some have hereditary deafness.

At the high and low ends of the frequencies that we hear, sounds must be louder, or more intense in decibels, for us to hear them. So, a dog could hear a siren farther away than we could. Pain results from sounds that are much louder than our threshold of hearing. Dogs could feel pain from sounds that weren't painfully loud to us. Very loud sounds can hurt the ears and if a sound seems too loud to you, it is probably more so to your dog.

But, when a dog howls at a sound, it isn't always because it hurts his ears. He may associate the sound with particular events or have learned that if he howls, the noise is "chased" away (as dogs who chase cars think that they have successfully chased away the intruding vehicle).

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## 5. Is a Dog's mouth really cleaner than a human's mouth?

The possibility is that dogs' mouths are not "cleaner" at all, but that people bites are worse simply because the germs living in peoples' mouths are all germs that can attack you, whereas most of the germs living in a dog's mouth couldn't even if they got under your skin. They're \*dog\* germs, right? Specially adapted to living in dogs and not people.

There aren't that many species of bacteria that can live in more than one species, although those that do are a real pain. Smallpox, you see, pretty much only lived in humans, so that when all humans were vaccinated the disease just died out. Tetanus, on the other hand, lives in cows as well as people, rabies lives in bats and raccoons, malaria in mosquitoes, plague in rats, etc.

Since you can't take health care to the wild animals, you can't wipe out these diseases.

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## 6. How does a Dog whistle work?

Dog whistles are quite simple. The only secret about it is that dogs can hear sounds of higher pitch than people can. So we make an ordinary whistle with a very high pitch.

A whistle is just an air nozzle squirting air at an edge, right next to the hole in the end of a tube which likes to "ring" at the chosen pitch. A long tube will ring at a low pitch, a short tube at a high pitch.

So a dog-whistle has a very short little tube, only 1 inch long or shorter. If you look at a dog whistle, you can usually find this tube. If you could make the tube longer, you would start to hear the whistle.

Dogs don't hear loud sounds this high-pitched very often, so they really take notice. It might even hurt their ears, just like a loud whistle can hurt your ears, if the whistle is nearby. When a dog hears a dog-whistle, it just does whatever it was trained to do when it hears a dog-whistle. And maybe he was never trained! Then the whistle has no special power far away.

If you are training your dog, any whistle is a good thing. A whistle simpler for a dog to notice than words. To him it's a distinct, clear, simple, special barking with no words. Like barking, it is either there or it's not. The dog only needs to interpret the occasion of the whistle-blow, ("he tweeted at me when I got up, so maybe he wants me to sit down"...) not the vowels and consonants and sentences people keep hoping the dog will understand.

Dogs aren't very good at hearing vowels and constants, let alone sentences. It just isn't built into their brains yet. They'd rather hear one toot or two, or long and short. Things like that. High/Low pitch is good if the pitch difference is large, and rising and falling are even better. Steady vs. fluttery is good too.

It's more about understanding the dog, than about understanding whistles...

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## 7. How does a Dog know it's name?

Why do you respond when someone calls your name? You react because over time, through repetition, you have learned to recognize the sound of your name. Dogs and other trainable animals act the same way. Over time, they learn the consequences of how they respond to commands.

For example, when you call your dog to you, the dog enjoys the response it gets when it obeys. You may pet the dog, perhaps give it a treat snack, or praise it in a non-threatening voice. This is a pleasurable action that the dog enjoys. Likewise for a "sit" command. When the dog sits, it is rewarded with your approval -- another pleasurable response that the dog enjoys. So, it's all a matter of repetition of the command linked to approval actions on the part of the trainer that the dog finds rewarding and/or pleasurable.

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## 8. Where do Dogs come from?

### THE DOG'S ANCESTORS

The dog, often called "man's best friend", is also his oldest friend. About 10,000 years ago, when Stone Age men began to cultivate plants for food, they also began to domesticate some of the wild animals: first the dog, then the pig, followed by cattle and reindeer, sheep, goats, asses, horses, camels and elephants -- in about that order.

Scientists differ but most agree that Fido is descended from the wolves of Europe and Asia, perhaps tamed at different times in different parts of the world. They enjoyed the discarded food and the warmth of the campfire, repaying their masters by giving notice of the approach of enemies and by assisting in the hunts for game.

The prehistoric ancestor of the dog tribe was a small mink-like animal, with a long body and short legs, which lived about 40 million years ago where there were three-toed horses no bigger than a sheep. From it, through the ages, developed a type of animal -- the bear-dog -- which gradually became gigantic and the ancestor of our modern bears: and another type from which developed two kinds of "grandchildren".

One was the beginning of a line of beasts that eventually produced the wild hunting dogs now found in Africa and India, and the peculiar South American bush-dog. From the other, which was very dog-like in appearance, are descended all of our present day dogs, wolves, coyotes, jackals and foxes. From it, too, developed a carrion-eating hyena-dog which occurred only in North America and became extinct.

The dog tribe gradually developed longer legs for running down their prey, a remarkably high degree of intelligence, a surprising ability to adapt themselves to all manner of conditions and, except for the foxes which are solitary hunters, a sociability which caused them to travel in families or in packs. Like the wolves today, they tirelessly pursued game for mile after mile, hour after hour, frequently taking turns in relays until their quarry was exhausted and overtaken -- teamwork at its best.

It was this ingrained sociability and adaptability that enabled dogs to be domesticated and, by careful breeding, to produce so many different types for various purposes. On monuments of ancient Egypt there were pictured slender dogs of the greyhound type and another short-legged breed. Today there are over 300 known breeds generally classified into six groups: the sporting dogs, the hounds, the working dogs, the terriers, the toy dogs, and the non-sporting miscellaneous kinds. The Indians of western Canada developed a strain with white woolly hair which was excellent for weaving.

It is believed that America was first peopled by men from Asia and that they brought their dogs with them. No earlier record exists but in the prehistoric Indian mounds of the Ohio valley there are remains of dogs. In a burial place of the Basket Makers who lived in our Southwest about 2000 years ago, were found the mummies of two types of dogs. Before the white man brought horses from Europe, dogs -- apparently crossed with native wolves or coyotes -- were the Indians' only beasts of burden. They were trained to carry a heavy backpack or drag a travois of wooden poles. Among many tribes they also served as food, especially at feasts before and after a warring expedition.

After 10,000 years, however, Fido still turns around a few times before lying down, buries bones, howls at night,

and yaps or bays when on a hot trail. He is color blind but his nose is keen. He lives in a world of smells. Just watch him, sometime. **That's a dog's life !**

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## 9. What are Rabies?

Rabies, or hydrophobia, is one of the most dreaded diseases because of the extreme suffering of the animal or person afflicted. Also because it always ends in death. All warm-blooded animals are susceptible but it is spread most commonly by dogs because of their biting habits and their close association with other animals and with men.

Rabies is one of the oldest known contagious diseases of man and animals. Aristotle described it in 300 B.C., saying, "Dogs suffer from madness. It throws them into a state of fury, and all animals which are bitten are also attacked with madness. " Over the ages many attempts were made to cure this fearsome malady. Among them was the use of "mad stones" from the intestines of deer and goats.

The disease is caused by a virus which is transmitted through the saliva when an infected animal bites. From the wound the infection slowly follows the nerves to the spinal cord and the brain. The symptoms of the disease may appear as early as two weeks or as late as several months.

The behavior of rabid dogs may be either the "furious" or the "dumb" types. The former starts with a change in disposition followed for a few days by an excitable or furious stage when the animal snaps at anything in its path. Unless confined it may travel as much as twenty miles in a day. The voice is hoarse and cracked. The end comes with convulsions and paralysis. A dog with the dumb type neither barks nor bites because the lower jaw, tongue and throat soon are paralyzed. Weak and depressed, it tries to crawl into a cool dark place to die.

Rabies is one of nature's ways to curb overpopulation.

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## 10. Are all Dogs the same?

Different dog breeds have different personalities as well as some inherited diseases that are specific to a breed. The scientists of the canine genome project are working to identify genetic markers linked to behaviors and diseases found specifically in dogs.

They are finding some interesting markers in dogs and also finding that dogs and humans share many genes. Dogs are being used as model organisms in the search for disease genes. It turns out that dogs suffer from some of the same diseases humans do and that we have the same markers.

Just like humans, dogs are all one species and there is not much variety between breeds.

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I hope you enjoyed these articles, I had a great deal of enjoyment putting them together.

Sincerely,

*John Clifford*

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