

Woof Woof! Read More!

AppleSeeds

A Cobblestone Publication



Who Let
the
DOGS
Out?

MORE
THAN
75
DOGS
INSIDE!

What a
slobbery
dog!

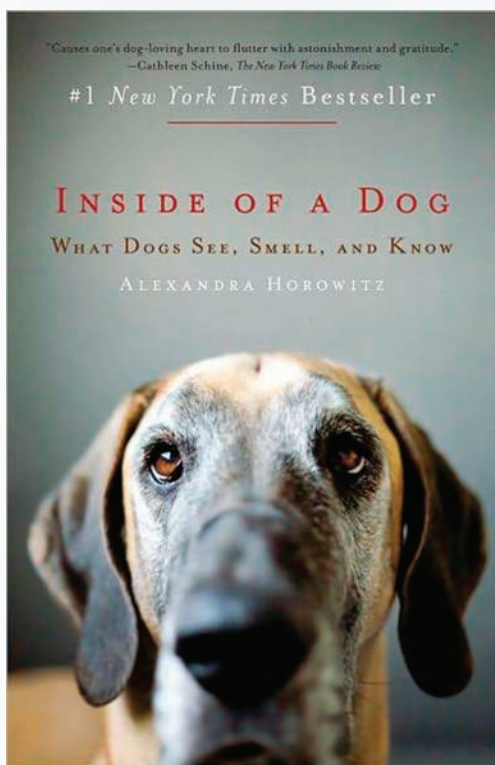
That's the one
good thing about us
parakeets...we
DON'T Slobber!



Wait... what am
I saying? There are
LOTS of good things
about parakeets!

How Dogs Talk: The Scoop from an Expert

by Elizabeth
Armstrong Hall



How well do you know your dog? When he wags his tail, does that mean he's happy? If he barks, is he angry? Dr. Alexandra Horowitz, a research scientist who has always lived with dogs, decided to find out. She talked with *AppleSeeds* about her discoveries.

Q. Why did you choose dogs for your research?

A. I wanted to study how animals play, so I could understand how they think. I picked dogs, because they play together, even as adults. Most other animals play only when they're young. I realized that I lived with an animal who played all the time.

Q. The little black dog, Pumpernickel, in your book?

A. Yep.

Q. How did you do your research?

A. I read everything I could about dogs. Then I watched dogs play. I took Pumpernickel to dog parks and filmed her with other dogs. Back home, I watched the videotapes in slow motion.



Q. Since dogs can't speak, how can they talk?

A. Lots of ways—with different sounds, and not just barking. They purr, growl, moan, grunt, yelp, and howl. They use their ears, posture, mouth, and—especially—tail.

Q. Anything surprising about tails?

A. Dogs wag their tail a little more to the right when they see their owner or something that interests them. They wag their tail more to the left when they see a strange dog.

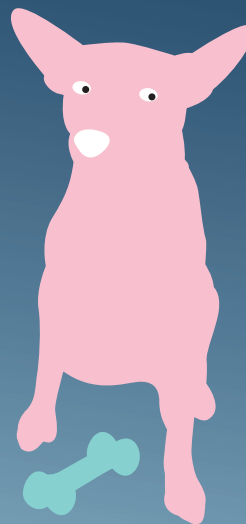
Q. Does a wagging tail mean a dog is friendly?

A. Not always. You have to look at the whole dog. For example, if he wags his tail high but he's snarling with his mouth closed, he's not friendly.



"I turn on the bathwater, turn to her with a smile, and her tail drops and wags low, her ears flattening on her head. All this talking and yet no talking at all."

~Alexandra Horowitz,
*Inside of a Dog: What Dogs
See, Smell, and Know*



Jonathan: I would train a dog to jump in an obstacle course.



Q. When dogs yawn, are they bored or tired?

A. No. They might feel threatened.

Q. Can dogs laugh?

A. Not like us. It's more like a pant when they're playing with other dogs.

Q. When I think of dog talk, I think of barking.

A. Not all dogs bark. They also use different barks to show aggression, loneliness, if someone's at the door, or when they want to play.

Q. What's the coolest thing you observed?

A. Dogs ask each other to play in different ways. Sometimes they bend down on their front legs and stick their rump up in the air. Dogs that know each other slap their paws down—like when you use a special signal to say “hi” to your friends.

Q. Really? Well, great talking to you.

A. My pleasure.



Nataly: I would train a dog to do tricks and dance.

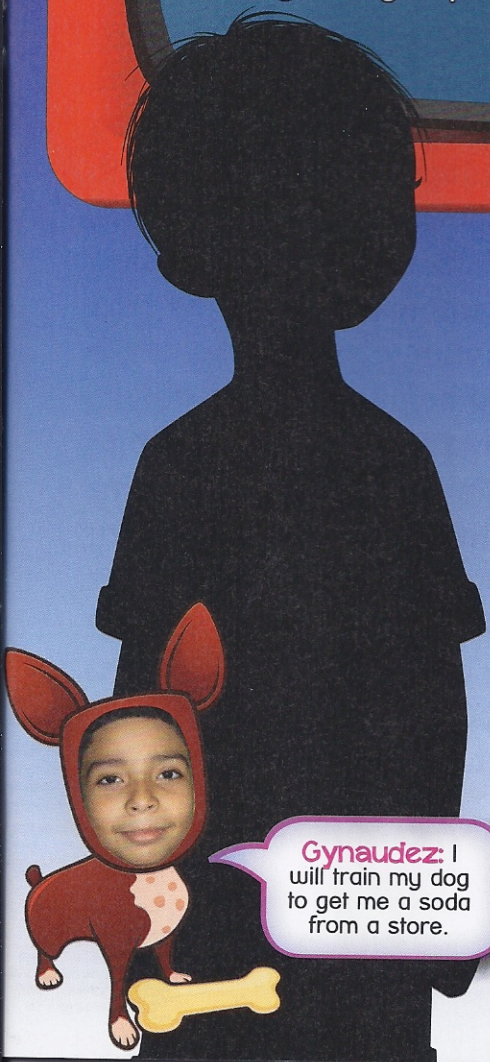


TIPS TO TRY

by Elizabeth
Armstrong Hall

Want to find out what your dog is thinking and feeling? Here are some tips from Dr. Horowitz. **NEVER TRY ANY OF THESE WITH A DOG YOU DON'T KNOW.**

1. Make a videotape of your dog playing with other dogs. How do they greet each other? Watch all their tails. How do they use their noses?
2. Watch the tape in slow motion. Dogs move at a fast pace. So you'll miss lots of little things when you just watch dogs in real time.
3. Record the sounds they make. Then play it back.
4. Invite your dog to play with you. Get down to dog level. Okay, you don't have a tail, so lift your butt up in the air and slap the ground with your arms. I tried this with my dog, Gracie. How does your dog respond? He just might surprise you!



Gynaudez: I will train my dog to get me a soda from a store.



Tayvon: I would train the dog to get my shoes.

