



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 11

## Living with Dogs: Understanding Motivation

Motivation is what makes your dog tick. It's what drives him to do things, like respond to your cues and find doing so worthwhile. Common canine motivators include: Car rides, a ball tossed, a walk, a leash clipped on or off, playing with toys, access to other dogs, access to smells, and—the biggie—food.

Why should you know what motivates your dog? Because you can give him reason to pay attention to you. It's the equivalent of saying to your dog, "I'll tell you what: If you sit, I'll throw your ball" or "If you stop pulling on the leash, I'll let you go smell that shrub." You use what naturally motivates your dog to get the behaviours you want most.

How do you go about it?

First, limit your dog's access to the things he finds most motivating. Have a ball-crazy dog? Instead of leaving balls around the house at all times, carry them with you so you can whip one out as a way to reward your dog when he is getting something right.



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### Dog quotes

"Once you have had a wonderful dog, a life without one is a life diminished."

—Dean Koontz



cont.

## ....understanding motivation

Second, make an item more exciting by bringing it to life for your dog. Simply handing a dog a toy isn't nearly as fun for a dog as shaking it about, playing peek-a-boo with it, and then, at the height of excitement, asking for a behaviour and rewarding it with a toss of the toy. Food sitting around in a bowl can't equal the fun of dry food dished out during a lively training session.

Have trouble getting your dog's attention? Be sure you're using the right motivators for the challenge. Dry food can't compete with a cat strolling by. Always have an ultimate trump card—something your dog just can't resist.



CCO Kiyo – Golden Retriever

## Did You Know: How Many Puppies Per Litter?

In statistical averages, these dogs have:

Australian terrier:	5.0
Basenji:	7.6
Boxer:	5.0
Bulldog:	5.9
Cocker spaniel:	4.8
Collie:	7.9
Dachshund:	8.7
French bulldog:	5.8
German shepherd:	8.0
Golden retriever:	8.1
Labrador retriever:	7.8
Mastiff:	7.7
Miniature poodle:	6.4
Pekingese:	10.0
Saint Bernard:	8.5
Welsh corgi:	5.5



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