



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

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Issue 92

Living With Dogs: Want a Great Relationship With Your Dog? Learn Their Language

Living in a human world can be confusing for our canine friends, and communication problems between dogs and their people are often at the heart of behaviour issues. Here's why learning how to 'speak dog' will help you and your dog thrive:



Better Communication: Learning to interpret your dog's signals allows you to understand their feelings and needs. Dogs primarily communicate through body language, and it can be very subtle. Stay curious about what your dog may be telling you, especially in new or stressful situations.

Increased Trust: Understanding when your dog is anxious, relaxed, or playful helps you 'have their back' so you can remove them from sticky situations or do more of what they love. By responding to subtle cues in your dog's body language, you create an environment that promotes comfort and trust.



Enhanced Training Success: Effective training relies on clear communication. Understanding how your dog expresses emotions and responds to various stimuli allow you to tailor training sessions to their needs. This approach makes for more successful training and reinforces a positive learning experience.



... speak dog

A Deeper Connection: Dogs are highly perceptive to human emotions and body language. They're also incredible communicators, provided we know how to listen. Learning more about how dogs communicate opens up a fascinating new world - you'll never view the dog park in the same way again!

Understanding and interpreting dog body language is a valuable skill for all dog lovers and will improve your observation and training skills. If you want a head start, a force-free trainer can help by pointing you towards valuable resources and providing clues about what your dog is saying.



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A World of Dogs: Decoding the Dingo

The dingo is a distinctive and ancient wild canine species native to Australia. Characterised by a lean and medium-sized build, dingoes typically have ginger or yellowish coats, as well as pointed ears and bushy tails. They are well-adapted to the diverse landscapes of Australia, and many live successfully in the wild as hunters and scavengers. The Australian dingo is also at the centre of a taxonomic puzzle that has baffled scientists and sparked debates.

The dingo's origins trace back thousands of years, making it one of the oldest dog breeds globally. Traditionally, dingoes were classified as a distinct species, *Canis dingo*. However, this classification has become a subject of contention.

One challenge lies in distinguishing between pure dingoes and those with hybrid ancestry resulting from interbreeding with domestic dogs. The introduction of European settlers brought canines that interbred with dingoes, blurring their lineage.

Some researchers argue that dingoes should be recognised as a subspecies of the domestic dog, *Canis lupus familiaris*. Others advocate for preserving the dingo's distinct status due to its unique ecological role and cultural significance.

This debate extends beyond the realm of taxonomy, as it has practical implications for conservation efforts and the management of dingoes in the wild. Classified as a distinct species, dingoes might receive greater conservation attention, while their inclusion under domestic dog categories could lead to different control measures.

Outside of these scientific and conservation debates, the Australian dingo remains a captivating figure. They often live in complex social groups, and tend to be active at night, especially in hotter regions. They are curious and intelligent, and can escape from enclosures. While they can bark, they do so rarely, and are more prone to howls, growls, yelps, and chatters.

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