



For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend

By Patricia McConnell

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Yes, humans and canines are different species, but current research provides fascinating, irrefutable evidence that what we share with our dogs is greater than how we vary. As behaviorist and zoologist Dr. Patricia McConnell tells us in this remarkable new book about emotions in dogs and in people, more and more scientists accept the premise that dogs have rich emotional lives, exhibiting a wide range of feelings including fear, anger, surprise, sadness, and love.

In *For the Love of a Dog*, McConnell suggests that one of the reasons we love dogs so much is that they express emotions in ways similar to humans. After all, who can communicate joy better than a puppy? But not all emotional expressions are obvious, and McConnell teaches both beginning dog owners and experienced dog lovers how to read the more subtle expressions hidden behind fuzzy faces and floppy ears.

For those of us who deeply cherish our dogs but are sometimes baffled by their behavior, *For the Love of a Dog* will come as a revelation—a treasure trove of useful facts, informed speculation, and intriguing accounts of man's best friend at his worst and at his very best. Readers will discover how fear, anger, and happiness underlie the lives of both people and dogs and, most important, how understanding emotion in both species can improve the relationship between them. Thus McConnell introduces us to the possibility of a richer, more rewarding relationship with our dogs.

While we may never be absolutely certain what our dogs are feeling, with the help of this riveting book we can understand more than we ever thought possible. Those who consider their dogs part of the family will find *For the Love of a Dog* engaging, enlightening, and utterly engrossing.

From the Hardcover edition.

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For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend By Patricia McConnell Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #59123 in Books
- Brand: McConnell, Patricia B., Ph.D.
- Published on: 2007-08-28
- Released on: 2007-08-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .70" w x 5.30" l, .62 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Animal behaviorist, dog trainer, syndicated radio talk show host and prolific author on all things canine, McConnell (*The Other End of the Leash*) presents a compelling combination of stories, science and practical advice to show how understanding emotions in both people and dogs can improve owners' relationships with their pets. This is more than a simple dog-training book: much of what McConnell discusses concerns how dog owners can learn "the language" of dog by recognizing important signals and reading them correctly. She provides numerous helpful examples of how owners can observe dog behavior, especially differences in posture and facial expressions, in order to help dogs be better behaved and help dog owners to be better handlers; her discussion of the meaning of a dog's "tongue flicks" is alone worth the price of the book. Her overall goal is to help owners provide their pets with "a sense of calm, peaceful benevolence," and she skewers current dog-training fads that emphasize "dominance" over a dog. "Don't fool yourself: if you yell at your dog for something he did twenty seconds ago, you're not training him; you're merely expressing your own anger." (*On sale Aug. 15*)

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From Booklist

Understanding what drives the behavior of our pet dogs is McConnell's goal. She teaches readers to understand the emotional environment of their dogs' actions and helps them to reprogram undesirable behaviors. This is not a book on how to train dogs, but McConnell's examination of cases from her veterinary practice, backed up by her scientific study of animal behavior, will help readers better understand their closest companions. Whether discussing separation anxiety, fear biting, or simple canine happiness, McConnell explains the emotional state of each dog and how this drives the observed behavior. One gentle Labrador was traumatized by an aggressive boy and had begun to growl and snap at all human males--he was cured by simple therapy involving habituation to nice behavior and treats from men and boys. A dog that was terrified of thunder was trained to go to his safe place--a heavily insulated, very quiet doghouse. McConnell's main message is for readers to observe their own dogs and to understand the emotions behind their actions, both good and bad. *Nancy Bent*

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Review

Advance praise for For the Love of a Dog

"For the Love of a Dog is a wonderful book. Fine, balanced, charming, it is sure to appeal to all dog fans whose numbers seem to be increasing (and rightly so) by the day. I read it with great delight."

—Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Ph.D., author of Dogs Never Lie About Love

"A step-by-step guide on how to interpret how your dog feels by reading his facial expressions and body posture. A marvelous book that everybody who loves dogs should own."

—Temple Grandin, author of Animals in Translation

"Brilliant! For The Love of a Dog is a perfect balance of science and soul. These stories will either keep you up reading long into the night knowing that with your dogs, you love and are loved, need and are needed."

—Dr. Marty Becker, resident veterinarian on ABC's Good Morning America and author of Fitness Unleashed!

“A fascinating, highly educational read. McConnell alternates between expressing empathy with our canine friends and taking a step back to explain the scientific limits of any attempt to get into their heads.”
—Frans de Waal, author of *Our Inner Ape*

“Patricia McConnell skillfully blends cutting edge scientific data with examples from her personal experiences with dogs to produce a clear picture of the emotional life of dogs. In the process we learn more about how the mind of a dog works, and how to better understand and interact with them. This is a ‘must read’ for all dog owners.”

—Stanley Coren, author of *The Intelligence of Dogs* and *How Dogs Think*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kimi Frantz:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book eligible For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

Stephen Williams:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for us. The book For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend was making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The book For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend is not only giving you more new information but also to be your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship using the book For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend. You never truly feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Patricia Baker:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information today can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even an issue. What people must be consider any time those information which is in the former life are hard to be find than now's taking seriously which one works to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend as your daily resource information.

Anthony Carter:

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