



How Dogs Think: Understanding the Canine Mind

By Stanley Coren

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It's been said that dogs personify all the virtues of humans without the vices. Henry James wrote that his dog was "most reasonable and well-mannered" and Plato that "a dog has the soul of a philosopher." Over the years, dogs have taught us many things: loyalty, courage, and to turn around three times before lying down. Yet even in the face of millennia of evidence of thoughtful dogs, there has been little systematic scientific study until recently of what is actually going on in the dog's mind, and some people even question whether dogs have the capacity for that which we call mind. In this long-anticipated new book, written in the vein of his enormously popular "The Intelligence of Dogs" and "How to Speak Dog," Dr. Stanley Coren looks at both the heights of intellect and the depth of our misunderstanding of what goes on in a dog's mind. A bestselling author, psychologist, and world-renowned expert on dog behavior and training, Dr. Coren is always at the forefront of discoveries about dogs. With his ever-entertaining, erudite style, he provides a fascinating picture of the way dogs interpret their world and their owners, how they solve problems, learn, and take in new information. Dr. Coren lets you see through a dog's eyes, hear through his ears, and even sense the world through a dog's nose, giving you the insight that you need to understand the silly, quirky, and apparently irrational behaviors that dogs demonstrate, as well as those stunning flashes of brilliance and creativity that they occasionally display. Along the way, "How Dogs Think" will answer the questions about which you have always wondered, including: Can dogs count? Do they have an appreciation of art or music? Can a dog learn how to do something by just watching another dog or even a person do it? Do dogs dream? What is the nature of dog personality? Which behaviors are prewired into your dog and which can you actually change? And, can dogs sense future earthquakes or detect cancer? With information not widely known to lay people, this lively guide also provides practical advice and wisdom that allows owners to discover the best ways to teach dogs new things, why punishment doesn't work, how a dog can actually learn to love or to fear, and how to turn that new puppy into a "perfect," emotionally sound, inquisitive, happy, and obedient dog. Combining solid science with numerous funny, informative anecdotes and firsthand observations -- all characterized by Dr. Coren's own searching intelligence and his (and sometimes his dogs') irrepressible sense of humor -- "How Dogs Think" shatters many common myths and misconceptions about our four-legged friends

and reveals a wealth of surprises about their mental abilities and intellectual potential.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Friendly, authoritative and firmly grounded in scientific evidence, Coren's survey of canine biology and psychology will give readers a new appreciation of humankind's best animal friend. A psychologist and dog expert, Coren has an amused sort of enthusiasm for all things doggish; he likes both funny stories about pooches and serious research that logically explains their behavior. The combination will be familiar to fans of his previous bestsellers, *The Intelligence of Dogs* and *How to Speak Dog*, and it works just as well in this new volume. Chapters like "I Sniff, Therefore I Am" and "The Wrinkled Mind" teach readers what makes the canine nose so incredibly sensitive, why dogs have special taste buds that are sensitized to water, what's the difference between long and short growls, and why dogs like to sniff people in embarrassing spots. Dogs feel pain in similar ways to humans, Coren explains, but most cases of "dog ESP" or telepathy can be traced to sensitive hearing—or to humans' desire to believe in doggy ESP. In a chapter on genetics, he shows how anxiety disorder can be passed from mom to litter. Other chapters cover breeding and training, and the book concludes with a complex examination of the science and philosophy of canine consciousness. Coren doesn't dumb anything down but manages to make scientific information easy to understand—and he scatters practical tips for handling dogs at home throughout the text. This entertaining, well-researched book will please dog lovers of every stripe.

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From [Booklist](#)

Dogs are the oldest domesticated animal and our most common household pet. With all this time and intimacy, what have we learned about how our closest companion animal thinks? Coren, a professor of psychology and recognized dog expert (*How to Speak Dog* [2000] and *The Intelligence of Dogs* [1995]) examines what is known about how the canine mind works. He investigates the effects of both genetics and learning on the behavior of dogs and the consequences of breeding for specific traits in purebreds and how this has changed their personalities. He is also the host of a weekly Canadian television show on dog behavior, and from this background he enlivens the text with human-dog anecdotes that illustrate his more scientific points. It is this combination of research (backed up with an extensive bibliography) and applicability, brought together with Coren's eminently readable style, that makes for a valuable book. *Nancy Bent*

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From the Inside Flap

"The thinking dog owner's guide to everything they ever wanted to know about their dog. Truths expanded, myths exposed, common sense prevailing, Dr. Coren tells it the way it is. Two dew claws up for this excellent book."

--Nicholas H. Dodman, BVMS, MRCVS, DVA, Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts University; author of *The Dog Who Loved Too Much* and *If Only They Could Speak*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Connie Deroche:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like

looking for your favorite reserve and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled How Dogs Think: Understanding the Canine Mind. Try to stumble through book How Dogs Think: Understanding the Canine Mind as your good friend. It means that it can being your friend when you sense alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let's make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Lewis Skinner:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or read a book eligible How Dogs Think: Understanding the Canine Mind? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have various other opinion?

David Earnest:

This book untitled How Dogs Think: Understanding the Canine Mind to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, here is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book store or you can order it by using online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to you to past this e-book from your list.

John Silver:

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book in comparison with can satisfy your short time to read it because this time you only find book that need more time to be go through. How Dogs Think: Understanding the Canine Mind can be your answer given it can be read by a person who have those short time problems.

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