



Have you ever had one of those moments, as a dog owner, when you just stop and think to yourself, "I know just what my dog is trying to say to me?" If you have you are certainly not alone. Most dog owners not only believe that their dogs are communicating with them, but that their dogs also have human emotions.

There is a lot of debate on that subject and, without getting into all the hows and whys and scientific facts, it is easy to see that our dogs are trying to get information across to us. That only makes sense since dogs are, by nature, pack animals and the pack has to somehow be able to interact. If you watch those amazing documentaries on TV you see wild dogs, wolves and coyotes communicating through body language, posturing, vocalizations, nudges and physical contact.

However, when you think about human dog interaction, it is really a one way street. Most of us expect our dogs to learn English, or our native language, and to follow our every command. On the other hand, the vast majority of people that own dogs never stop to consider how much easier life would be for our pets if we just learned the basics of "canine speak".

The great news is that your dog will teach you to speak his or her language if you just pay a little bit of attention. You won't need any costly language classes; you will just need to be observant and watch for changes in body language, eye contact and in your dog's overall behavior.

To get started learning communication from a dog's perspective spend some time watching your dog or dogs do their natural doggy things. If they are really interested in something in the yard you will notice their ears go up, their tail goes up and they stand straight and focused. If they are excited and happy about something they usually do the opposite, their ears go close to their head, their tail and head goes down and they do that crazy wiggling with their entire body. If they are nervous they are alert but with the tail down and in a more crouched body posture.

These signals are easy to read if you get to know your dog. This is a fun exercise and one that you can do anywhere and at any time. In becoming more observant of your dog and their natural behavior you can quickly tell when they are becoming stressed or anxious. This can be a big plus in training or socializing. You will, without a lot of a studying and homework, soon become fluent in the language of your dog by just keeping your eyes, and ears, open for change.

LuAnn

Dirty Dogs Salon

4485 N. Carl G. Rose Hwy. Hernando, FL 34442

Tel: (352) 341-0600

www.dirtydogssalon.com

Get this Newsletter on our Website every month:
www.dirtydogssalon.com

Our Opening Hours!

Open:

Tues - Saturday
at 9am

Closed:

Sunday and Monday

Quiz

According to current research the proven benefits of owning a dog include:

- A. lower blood pressure
- B. decreased rates of depression
- C. longer life after serious illness
- D. all of the above

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I am a member of National Dog Groomer Association of America Inc.

I can train any dog in 5 minutes. It's training the owner that takes longer. ~ Barbara Woodhouse

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THIS PAGE AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT I COULD DO FOR YOU AND YOUR PET!

Five Important points to look for when choosing a good Dog Groomer!

It's important to remember that not all groomers are the same and that the service they provide will not always be what you'd expect. It's so important that the person who grooms and cares for your dog does so to the highest standard. Because it's critical that you have trust and confidence in this person, I have highlighted the five benefits that a good groomer will provide to you:

1. Assurance that the care and welfare of your dog is their top priority:

Any good groomer is first and foremost a dog lover, so caring for your dog comes as second nature to them and is given at all times. By providing breaks during the clipping process and by never leaving your dog unsupervised, they reduce unnecessary stress while ensuring safety and security. They also attend to your dog's basic needs by providing them with such things as fresh drinking water.

2. Grooming of the highest standards that reflects the needs of you and your dog:

A good groomer must be able to demonstrate the ability to groom your dog to high standards and to provide an appropriate look for your pet. They must have the ability to accurately determine your needs while advising you on different options for style and finish. A good groomer will never inflict pain or undue stress on your pet just to achieve a certain style.

3. Understanding of the different temperaments and characteristics of dogs:

As not all dogs are the same, they cannot all be approached and handled the same. For example, a shy and slightly fearful dog requires calmness and patience, while a lively bouncy dog may require immediate leadership. A good groomer will be able to adapt their approach to meet the psychological and behavioral needs of different dogs to ensure minimum stress during the grooming experience.

4. Quality products and methods that do not risk the health of your pet:

A good groomer will never compromise on the quality of products they use on your pet. Cheap dog products are available everywhere, yet they can cause severe health problems for your dog. Therefore, you must be confident that your groomer uses quality controlled professional grooming products. A good groomer will never cut corners with their products just to save money or to provide cheaper rates.

5. Advice and information on all aspects of dog ownership:

It's important that you have someone to turn to when you need advice or help with your dog, and a good groomer will be this person. While groomers cannot offer all of the answers, such as a medical diagnosis, they should be knowledgeable enough to offer some assistance and to point you in the right direction. A good groomer will always attempt to identify and inform you of any physical or behavioral changes that may indicate a health problem. This can make all the difference in recovery, as early detection ensures early treatment.

As a groomer, the above five benefits are the guide by which I provide my services. Dogs and grooming are my passion, not just my business. By bringing your dog to me for grooming, you can be assured that you and your dog will receive all five benefits as well as the care and service that you deserve.

What you can Expect if you Bring your Dog to Me!

Would you like your dog groomed so that she's looking gorgeous and left just the way you want her to look? Do you want her coat smelling delightful so there's no more 'doggy' smell in your home? Would you like her coat feeling soft while being just a dream to cuddle? And above all, would you like reassurance that your dog is getting the same gentle care and kindness during grooming that you would give her at home?

Well, you've just found a groomer that can provide everything you want, plus much, much more!

With me, you can be sure that your dog will be groomed to the highest standard. You'll be so pleased with how she looks, you will be proud to walk her down your street and show her off to your neighbors - just like the many other clients I have.

Your preferences and lifestyle, as well as your dog's character, are always taken into account as I advise you on grooming styles. The health, safety and welfare of your pet are always my priority, so you can have peace of mind knowing that I only offer the best advice to help you choose the right options for your dog.

As a caring dog owner, you'll want your pet to be healthy and happy. Therefore, it'll be reassuring to know that, with me, you'll have someone looking out for potential health issues and changes in your dog - some that may only be noticeable during grooming. Early detection of ailments can make all the difference to your pet, so I make sure to keep a close eye out for physical and behavioral changes during grooming.

Your dog will be well looked after and will always get the 'one on one' attention that she needs. You'll always feel confident that she's in the safest of hands with me; I can assure you of that.

Your pet deserves the best so I only use the best and safest products that will get her coat looking gorgeous but won't ever harm her. Others may choose to use cheaper, inferior products in grooming but that's something I simply will not compromise on.

With me, you'll also have someone to turn to if you have issues or worries about your pet. Advice and help is a free extra service I'm more than happy to provide. You can call me if you ever have any problems or just need to chat about your little friend.

So if you're looking for a groomer who will leave your pet looking fantastic then give me a call. You'll be over the moon when you see what I can do for you and your little furry friend.

Dirty Dogs Salon

"Expert in leaving your dog looking gorgeous"

- ✓ **Have your dog gorgeously groomed so that she is left looking and smelling wonderful. You'll be delighted with how she'll look and you'll be so proud to show her off to your family and friends.**
- ✓ **You'll never have to worry when you leave your pet with me. She'll be groomed in a clean, relaxed environment where only the best and safest products are used.**
- ✓ **As a customer of mine, you'll get the respect and service from me that all good dog owners like you deserve.**
- ✓ **Help and advice is freely given so you'll always have someone to turn to if you ever have a problem or a worry about your little friend.**
- ✓ **I use a calm, 'tender loving' approach when grooming, where patience, praise and kindness is assured.**
- ✓ **And of course, kisses and cuddles for your little buddy are provided in abundance. She'll just love being groomed with me and you'll love how she looks afterwards!**

Call for an appointment today. Tel: **(352) 341-0600**

Natural Coat And Skin Care

Natural coat and skin care is an ideal way to keep your dog looking and feeling great. The benefit to using natural, chemical free types of coat and skin conditioners is that there is very little risk of any reaction to the product.

Of course, dogs can have allergies to natural ingredients, but this is much less common than sensitivities or reaction to the perfumes, chemicals and additives in commercially prepared coat and skin products.

Simple natural remedies can be made from ingredients you probably have in your kitchen pantry. The following are easy to make natural items and tips on when they are beneficial to your dog's coat or skin.

Oatmeal bath – blend one cup of uncooked oatmeal in a blender until it is a powder. Fill your dog's bath with warm water and add the powdered oatmeal, stirring until dissolved. Then pour the oatmeal water over the dog continually for about 10 minutes. Do not rinse and towel dry the dog. Avoid using a dryer as this can cause more skin irritation. This is a great treatment for itchy or dry skin.

Olive Oil and Honey – for dry, dull coats try a honey and olive oil conditioning treatment. After the dog's bath and when they are still wet and in the tub, mix equal parts of honey and olive oil together and gently massage into the coat to the skin. Allow to stay on the dog for 5 -20 minutes and then rinse well with warm water.

Cornstarch – to remove grease, oil or dirt from the coat this is a great dry shampoo-like treatment. Sprinkle cornstarch, or cornmeal, onto the problem area, let stand for a minute or two and brush out. The dirt, grease or oil will be trapped by the cornstarch or cornmeal and will effectively clean the hair without the need for a full bath.

Natural Yogurt – for dull coats or dry skin natural, plain full fat yogurt is a soothing and moisturizing option. You do have to be careful to choose the full fat and plain varieties for the best results. This is a conditioner treatment that can be used after a bath. Apply a generous amount of yogurt to the coat and skin when the coat is still wet. Allow to stand for up to 20 minutes and then rinse with warm water.

These treatments are very effective in helping to manage mild, occasional skin and coat problems. These natural remedies aren't just good for your dog, you can also use them yourself to deal with flaky, dry skin or dull looking hair!

Outdoor Plants To Avoid

While it may not be warm enough for planting the yard and flower beds quite yet, eager gardeners may be starting to plan for this year's landscaping projects. If you have dogs you do need to be careful to avoid plants that are known to be toxic to dogs.

While most problematic plants will cause only mild symptoms that typically last only a few hours or day, some can be potentially deadly if the dog or puppy chews on the leaves, bark or fruit.

- **Oleander** – this beautiful flowering bush is highly toxic and potentially fatal if eaten. The flowers, leaves and the stems can cause vomiting, diarrhea, muscle tremors and problems with breathing.
- **Aloe Vera** – while great for treating burns, eating Aloe is not healthy for dogs. The symptoms can range from mild to moderate and include vomiting, tremors and loss of appetite.
- **Geranium** – these container plants are loved for their beautiful flowers. Dogs that rub up against the plants may experience symptoms of dermatitis. Eating the plant or flowers can result in vomiting and loss of appetite.
- **Hibiscus** – another flowering plant that is often grown in beds and containers is the hibiscus. The flowers and the plant itself are toxic and cause vomiting, diarrhea and loss of appetite when eaten.

Most types of lilies and ivy are also toxic to dogs and should be planted only well out of reach.

Nail Care For Dogs

Your dog's nails can tear, crack and chip just like human fingernails. While this may be a sign that the nails need clipping, it can also be due to normal wear and tear, especially if your dog is digging or walking on hard surfaces.

There are several products available at pet stores that are designed to moisturize and soften dog's nails to prevent these problems. They are usually oil based products that are also ideal for caring for the hard pads of the foot.

If your dog's nail does tear or splinter, use a nail file or emery board to gently smooth out the edges. You can then apply a small amount of olive oil, grapeseed oil, Vitamin E cream or shea butter cream to the nail to act as a natural conditioner.

Training To Talents

Have you ever stopped to wonder how some dogs are able to learn amazing tricks that seem like they would be impossible to teach? The secret to teaching your dog to do these unique tricks is to watch what your dog does naturally.

All dogs have their own little quirky behaviors that you can capitalize on and get the dog to do on command. This type of training requires you, as the trainer, to be ready to give a pre-set command and a treat when the dog starts to do their natural behavior. By pairing the natural behavior with a command and then the positive reward of a treat the dog will soon do the trick (the natural behavior) when they hear the command.

For example, most dogs will stretch after they get up from a nap. The behavior can be taught and turned into a neat trick. When you see your dog get up and start to go into that stretch you can give a command which could be something like "take a bow". Then, give the dog praise and a treat when he or she does the behavior in that specific situation.

After a few sessions, and you know how fast your dog catches on to new commands, try giving the "take a bow" command outside of when the normal behavior occurs. If the dog stretches and takes a bow, give them lots of praise and a treat. If not, keep repeating the command and reward with the natural behavior until the dog makes the connection.

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Quiz Key

The correct answer is D. all of the above. Research shows amazing benefits to pet ownership.

Choosing A Boarding Kennel

Although most dog owners would prefer to take their beloved pets with them when they travel it is not always practical or a good idea for the pet. Finding a top boarding kennel that you feel comfortable leaving your dog with is a big concern for most dog owners.

Ideally looking for a boarding kennel well in advance of leaving the dog at the facility is the best possible option. This gives you time to do some research, check the references and give the facility a tour.

The most important aspect of finding the right boarding kennel for your dog or dogs is to actually tour the kennel. Don't rely on website photographs or YouTube videos, actually go out and look at the building, the kennels and the grounds. You should find:

- Safe, secure and well maintained kennels, exercise areas and buildings.
- A clean, fresh smell in the kennel area with clean floors, bedding, food dishes and fresh water in each kennel.
- Kennels that are large and comfortable for your dog, regardless of his or her size.
- A bright, well lit environment.

In addition the staff should be mature, informed and knowledgeable about their service and about dogs in general. They should be licensed, insured and have strictly enforced rules about dog health and vaccinations for all pets coming into their facility.

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4485 N. Carl G. Rose Hwy. Hernando, FL 34442

Tel: (352) 341-0600

www.dirtydogssalon.com

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