



Dog Language

Roger Abrantes

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Why dogs do what they do and how we can express ourselves so our dogs can understand us better. Follows the traditions of school of ethology founded by Konrad Lorenz, based on research observations and study. Organized in alphabetical order and cross-referenced; illustrated with excellent black and white line drawings.

Dog Language Details

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charta says

Premessa: possiedo l'edizione italiana, assente nel db, e al momento misteriosamente *desaparecida* dalle mie librerie. In attesa di un recupero o un riacquisto commento quella in inglese.

Scritto con i consueti rigore e precisione scandinavi, il libro si fa perdonare l'eccesso di schematismo. Apprezzabile il rifiuto dello psicologismo sciatto e dell'antropizzazione, notevole l'umiltà con cui si confessano nicchie di ignoranza.

Si parte da un breve *excursus* nella storia del *canis lupus familiaris* per poi analizzare le salienze comportamentali di quest'ultimo anche attraverso il costante rimando al suo nobile antenato, il lupo. Estremamente puntuale, esaustivo e preciso nell'esaminare le varie voci, l'autore fornisce una panoramica a trecentosessanta gradi del linguaggio canino, dotandoci di preziosi strumenti interpretativi.

Il potenziale neofita potrà valutare con oculatezza quale razza scegliere ovvero se è il caso di soprassedere per dedicarsi a bestiole meno impegnative e toste quali il gatto; il padrone esperto per meglio comprendere o apprendere aspetti sconosciuti poco chiari del suo "migliore amico".

Di sicuro a lettura ultimata, non si potrà non restare impressionati dal fatto che un essere nettamente superiore a noi per forza, prestantza, capacità di reazione e mediazione, voglia comunque restare accanto a qualcuno che, spesso, lo vede attraverso i propri occhi e secondo le proprie aspettative, raramente per ciò che è.

p.s. non sorridete mai a un cane sconosciuto, penserà che gli state mostrando i denti! ;-)

Stefennie says

Very informative helped me greatly with my college work

Angie Pagendarm says

If you are interested in reading about dog behavior and its roots, as well as how it is represented in modern canine and how to read or interpret it's behavior you may want to put the book down. If you're hoping that this book flows smoothly and is very informational in that it gives personal accounts, definitely skip this book.

If you are looking for a quick reference to a certain canine behavioral word, then pick up this book and read away.

Wonderful illustrations though, and explains every behavior vocabulary very clearly.

Michelle says

Don't think that "encyclopedia" is some sort of euphemism for a book covering the ins and outs of canine behavior in this particular book. It's not. It's exactly what it says it is -- an encyclopedia, with each item listed alphabetically and cross-referenced. I expected it to be the former and was somewhat disappointed to find out that this one can be billed as "truth in advertising."

This book covers most everything in regard to canine behavior, but everything is just barely touched upon. Sections on important elements are often reduced to mere paragraphs. There's ultimately nothing wrong with this, as it makes this book a really good, solid introduction to canine behavior for anyone who knows little about it. I've read a lot on dog behavior and knew most of what was in this book in far greater detail than Abrantes seemed to want to go into, but I would recommend it to anyone who has a dog and doesn't know much about how they communicate. It's also excellent as a resource, just something to keep on the book shelf and look up concepts as needed. Its layout with multiple references (Escape - SEE FLIGHT) makes it an easy book to look up something quickly and easily.

The best section for me, personally, was the section on ethology (the science of behavior). He gives a rundown of ethology through the ages, starting with Aristotle and moving into modern theories. While it goes into only small details on each theory, it opens up the possibility of exploring more into the various ethology theories throughout the ages. I'm most interested in the writings of Augustinus (354-430) and Thomas Aquinas (1224-1274), both of whom believed animals have feelings. I find it amazing that someone from over 1500 years ago believed animals have feelings, but some modern people do not!

I took issue on the author with only a couple small things. He emphasizes (almost to the point of overemphasizing) that dogs cannot be fear aggressive, but rather that fear equals flight. I simply don't find this true. When cornered, a fearful animal will lash out, turn to "fight" rather than flight, because it's the only recourse left. In this case I think it's quite correct to say the dog is acting out of fear. Abrantes, however, says that a dog can be both submissive and aggressive. I find that these two are contradictory. If a dog is being submissive, it cannot be aggressive -- they're showing deference, placating a more dominant dog. I found this sort of change up to be a little odd.

My other very small quibble is that he describes a joyful dog as having a closed mouth. He never once mentions the open-mouthed "grin" dog owners all know so well. It seems odd to leave this aspect out, while bringing up most everything else about a dog's expression (including the dogs who smile by lifting the mouth up and showing their teeth in an imitation of a human smile).

Other than those two issues, I think this book is a great one to have on the shelf as reference or is a good book to read for new dog owners.

Keri says

Need to get this one.

Nicolas says

This book is a useful reference guide but more scholarly than practical.

