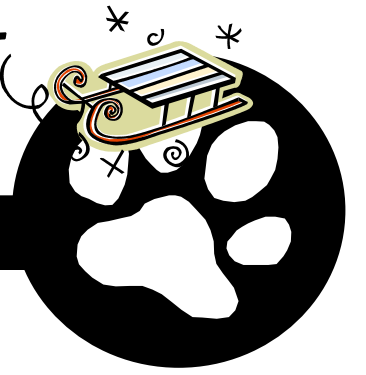


PAWS & THINK

RESCUE NEWSLETTER



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According to his DNA test results, Cooper is a Weimaraner, Greyhound, American Staffordshire Terrier mix. He was found wandering around a dumpster when he was just 2 months old and adopted from PWP soon after. His original family returned him when they found out they were going to have a baby... poor Coop - he was still a baby himself. He is 45 pounds, very smart, obedient and plays well with others!

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So, Do Animals Smile?

I don't know about your pets, but mine sure make me smile! I like to think that I make them smile too. I would guess that most pet-moms agree, and these days, some of the official, science-type folks are agreeing too! Facial expressions are the way our brains move the muscles in our faces to express the way we feel. We raise our eyebrows in surprise, we lower our eyelids in shyness, and we smile with happiness. We know what a happy smile looks like on the faces of our friends and families, but do our animals smile? And if they do, does the control of the facial muscles that create that smile come from some kind of emotion?



You've probably seen animals whose faces appear to express emotions. Your dog for example. Does his mouth turn up at the corners when you're playing or when it's dinnertime? No animal has more human-like facial expressions than our close relative the chimpanzee. They often flash a big toothy grin when they are fooling around or when they want humans to pay special attention to them...perhaps even to like them. Whether or not these grins actually have something to do with a feeling of happiness, the delighted reaction they get from humans gives chimps a good reason to repeat them again and again. As for dogs, during interactions with other dogs and humans, they oftentimes use what is called a "submissive smile", where their lips horizontally retract. In dog-talk, this is a sign that they are "non-threatening", and is an expression that disarms possible aggression. Personally, I use this a lot in "people-talk too! Everyone knows a nice smile can put everyone at ease!

Until recently, most animal behaviorists believed that an animal's use of what we call a smile is no more than a collection of conditioned reflexes that move the muscles in the face. But new thinking on the subject is now allowing for the possibility that animals are expressing happiness when they "smile." In fact several new theories go so far as to attribute primary emotions like fear, sadness, anger and happiness - and even some secondary emotions like jealousy and embarrassment - to animals. Think of the family dog that is "jealous" of a new baby. Or the one that hides in embarrassment after a bad haircut or a social "oops". Professor Nicholas Dodman, head of animal behavior at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine says that scientists have underestimated the emotional range of animals - particularly dogs and cats. Dodman even believes that dogs have a sense of humor and show it with a laugh that is created by a kind of a breathy forced exhalation. This theory is supported by a 2005 study, which offered evidence that the stress level of dogs confined to animal shelters dropped when they were played a recording of that dog-laugh vocalization. As for cats, Dodman notes that they have naturally bowed mouths so it's tricky to pinpoint an actual smile. But cat lovers don't need a cat-grin to know that their pets are smart enough to respond to training (if it suits them) and sensitive enough to the moods of their people to administer loving therapy when needed.

Marc Bekoff, Professor Emeritus of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado, and author of *The Animal Manifesto: Six Reasons for Increasing Our Compassion Footprint*, agrees that people are often keener observers of animal behavior than they give themselves credit for. Part of this lag is due to the fact that we are "studying animals in a box". Researchers such as Jane Goodall have enhanced the richness and depth of our understanding by living with and observing animals in their natural environment. Which brings me back to MY keen observation, that I make my animals smile! I am living the dream baby - running, playing, sitting, eating and sleeping with my crew - and they are smiling fools! Now, its not all fun and games - and that's usually when the sulking comes in - sad faces and deep sighs... which only proves my point further. Izzy even rolls her eyes at me now! I am amazed and irritated at the same time - kids these days...

One of the most important parts of Bekoff's studies (I think), is his belief that our growing acceptance of animals as "feeling" beings, needs to lead to legislation that provides much more protection of animals in labs, education, business and entertainment. Honestly, if we continue to find (and prove) that animals share, and express some of the most primary emotions that humans do, how can we not place more importance on the way we are treating them? As for me, I will continue my research - and continue to smile.

(source: Yahoo, Green Picks blog, Sarah Weir & Trystan Base)

MINGLE-WITH-THE-MUTTS

The weather may be getting colder - but Mingle with the Mutts is still the HOT place to be if you are ready to adopt! Mingle is the best place to look for your new best friend!

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You may not be able to tell by looking at my relaxed position on this chair... but I (and all cats) are sneaky & lethal hunters! For one, when we walk - our back paws step almost exactly in the same place as the front paws did beforehand. This keeps noise to a minimum and limits visible tracks. Very ninja-like if I do say so myself. If that isn't enough, we also have powerful night vision, allowing us to see at light levels six times lower than what a human can. So, chipmunks beware, and the next time you raid the fridge at 3am for a snack... be afraid... be very afraid.

PAWS & THINK

Happy Tails...

We adopted Otto in February 2011. After much deliberation we decided to keep his shelter name because it seemed so fitting for an adorable and goofy little puppy. He is almost a year old now, weighs 50 lbs. and loves his new home! Our little Yorkie loves to play with him and they are best buddies now. Otto is incredibly intelligent and affectionate. He loves to cuddle up with us at night under the covers. He has been an amazing dog and a great addition to our family. Thank you for letting us bring home such a wonderful dog!



Park Your Paws... Where the Cool Pups Go!

Since they first opened a few years ago, Park Your Paws Doggie Daycare has been the place where cool dogs (and people) hang out in Clintonville! Over 3,000 square feet of uniquely decorated and climate controlled play space! Whether your dog likes to run and play (in their 2,000 square foot indoor dog park), or hang out on the couch and watch TV (in the family room, of course) - PYP has something for everyone! 100% crate free, and open Monday through Saturday - so whether you are off to work, to the store, or just need somewhere to "romp" during the cold months - they have you covered! As if that weren't enough... Park Your Paws goes out of their way to help out the pups at Pets Without Parents too! In addition to hosting adoption events, collecting supplies and holding raffles, they donate free daycare to our shelter pups! Any dog that passes the temperament test is welcome to play for free as much as they like - how cool is that!? The "Beer Pit Litter" had a blast - thanks to the big hearted staff at Park Your Paws! Providing our rescues with the chance to socialize with other dogs and people goes a long way with making them more adoptable. Not to mention the awareness - **our pups, our shelter, and adoption as an option** gets from these guys - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! So, if you are looking for a doggie daycare - follow the cool pups to PYP!



How To Give a Cat a Pill...

I am sure many of you have seen this one... I always enjoy it!

- Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right fore finger and thumb on either of side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheek while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
- Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
- Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
- Take new pill from foil wrapper, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right fore finger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
- Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Pull spouse from garden.
- Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, holding front and rear paws. Ignore low growl emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold cat's head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cats throat vigorously.
- Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrapper. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.



- Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with its head just visible from below spouse's armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw; force cat's mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
- Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply bandage to spouses forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
- Retrieve cat from neighbor's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door on to neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
- Fetch screwdriver from garage and put door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
- Call Fire Department to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence whilst swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.
- Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table. Find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Force cat's mouth open with small spanner. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fresh tuna. Hold head vertically and pour pint of water down throat to wash pill down.
- Get spouse to drive you to hospital; sit quietly while doctor stitches finger and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Stop by furniture shop on way home to order new table.
- Schedule appointment with vet to give pill.

HOW TO GIVE A DOG A PILL...

- Wrap it in bacon.
- (please note: editor does not approve of any aforementioned medicating tactics, except for the dog/bacon scenario)*



IZZY SEZ...

Ever wonder why dogs like to drink from the toilet? While this might not be your beverage container of choice... to us, it is an incredible spring-fed porcelain fountain of goodness! Think about it - its fresher, cooler and hasn't been standing around in a bowl for hours and hours. It is magically changed, refreshed & renewed with every push of the handle! The water stays nice and cool because of the porcelain, the larger surface area leads to greater evaporation, and the bowl material does not change the taste the way some metal and plastic can. While these things were probably not taken into consideration by the original toilet bowl designer (genius), they have not gone unnoticed by the canine community. Bravo Mr. Toilet Bowl Designer Guy! Your next flush is on me!

(source: "Why Do Dogs Drink Out Of The Toilet?", by Marty Becker)

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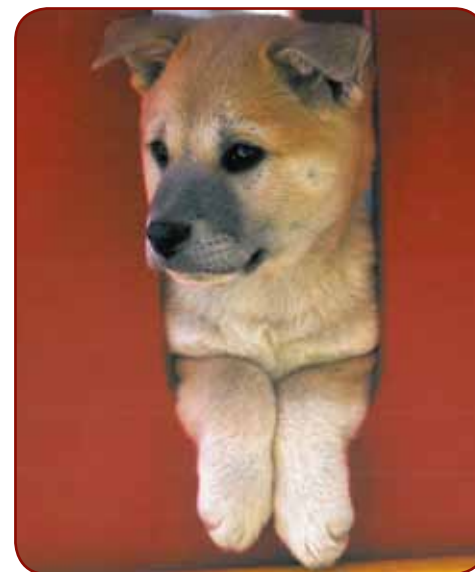


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