



# The Genius of Dogs: How Dogs Are Smarter Than You Think

By Brian Hare, Vanessa Woods

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**The Genius of Dogs: How Dogs Are Smarter Than You Think** By Brian Hare, Vanessa Woods

*For readers of *Inside of a Dog* by Alexandra Horowitz, this New York Times bestseller offers mesmerizing insights into the interior lives of our smartest pets*

In the past decade, we have learned more about how dogs think than in the last century. Breakthroughs in cognitive science, pioneered by Brian Hare, have proven dogs have a kind of genius for getting along with people that is unique in the animal kingdom. This dog genius revolution is transforming how we live and work with our canine friends, including how we train them. Does your dog feel guilt? Is she pretending she can't hear you? Does she want affection—or just your sandwich? In *The Genius of Dogs*, Brian Hare and Vanessa Woods lay out what discoveries at the Duke Canine Cognition Lab and other research facilities around the world are revealing about how your dog thinks and how we humans can have even deeper relationships with our best four-legged friends.

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**Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #25104 in Books
- Brand: Plume Books
- Published on: 2013-10-29
- Released on: 2013-10-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .80" w x 5.20" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 384 pages



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### Editorial Review

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Several monikers on the 2012 list of most popular puppy names (Max, Charlie, Lucy) have a comforting familiarity. As pets become integrated family members and people develop deeper bonds with their dogs, it makes sense that the owners would choose to name a pet as they would a human child. Loyalty and companionship are basic needs that a faithful, loving pooch can provide, but how well do you know what your dog is thinking? What motivates his actions, and how much does he actually learn through human cohabitation and observation? Husband-and-wife authors Hare (a professor of evolutionary anthropology and founder of the Duke Canine Cognition Center) and Woods (a research scientist and author) present their extensive scientific research on dognition (a playful portmanteau for dog cognition) in an informed and fetching style while pointing to the domestication of man's best friend as evidence of dogs' unique social intelligence and the survival of the friendliest. *The Genius of Dogs* will fascinate any dog lover who longs to gain a better understanding of our devoted canine friends. --Chris Keech

### Review

"Many authors have tried to anecdotally capture the emotional bond between humans and dogs. Here at last is a book that digs deep into cognitive science to unravel the mysteries of the canine brain. Thoroughly researched and written in the likable voice of a brainy scientist sitting at your kitchen table, *The Genius of Dogs* is a fascinating look at what goes on between the ears of the animals we share our lives with. I found it entertaining, fast-moving, and filled with gee-whiz insights that gave me a new appreciation for the complex social intelligence of man's best friend."

—John Grogan, author of *Marley & Me* and *The Longest Trip Home*

"*The Genius of Dogs* is a fantastic book. It makes it very clear that there are different kinds of intelligence. All dog lovers should read this book."

—Temple Grandin, author of *Animals Make Us Human* and *Animals in Translation*

"The definitive dog book of our time by the researcher who started a revolution."

—Daniel J. Levitin, author of *This is Your Brain on Music* and *The World in Six Songs*

"A masterful account of the way science is revealing just how smart dogs can be. Fascinating and highly readable."

—John Bradshaw, University of Bristol, author of *Dog Sense*

"With the help of some wolves, Russian foxes, New Guinea singing dogs and a Labrador Retriever named Oreo, Brian Hare tells us about his fascinating search for an understanding of how dogs think and communicate."

—Stanley Coren, author of *Do Dogs Dream* and *Born to Bark*

"Based on Brian Hare's game-changing research, *The Genius of Dogs* brilliantly explains the canine mind and in doing so illuminates the natural history of all intelligence. This book will captivate anyone interested in dog, ape or human mentality."

—Richard Wrangham, Harvard University, author of *Catching Fire*

"This is the best book in existence, by far, for learning about the recent revolution in our understanding of

the minds of dogs. And its fun, too.”

—Mike Tomasello, Co-Director, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

“*The Genius of Dogs* is not just about dogs, and not just about genius. It’s an exciting detective story by two comparative biologists with amazing discoveries to report.”

—Bernd Heinrich, author of *Mind of the Raven*

“A fascinating, riveting, utterly engaging romp through the mind of man's best friend. I promise: You will never look at your dog the same way again.”

—Maria Goodavage, author of *Soldier Dogs*

#### About the Author

**Brian Hare** is an associate professor in the Department of Evolutionary Anthropology and the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience at Duke University, where he founded the Duke Canine Cognition Center. **Vanessa Woods** is a research scientist at the Center as well as an award-winning journalist and the author of *Bonobo Handshake*. Hare and Woods are married and live in North Carolina.

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