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## 5 Ways Your Dog Senses The World Differently From You

By Charlie Lafave

### 5 Ways Your Dog Senses The World Differently From You by Charlie Lafave

Do dogs sense things differently than humans do? Well, yes and no. Dogs share the same basic senses with us: they see, hear, touch, smell and taste. But the level of their senses is different - an important distinction when you're trying to figure out just what your dog is doing.

#### Sight

It was once thought that dogs were "color-blind" - only able to see shades of black and white with some grey, but scientific studies have found that's not true. Dogs can see in color - ranging from blues and greens to greys and crèmes, and of course, black and white. It's been estimated that humans can distinguish somewhere between 7 and 10 million different colors. (We don't even have names for that many colors!)

Picture courtesy of Dr. P's site: <http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/dog/dog.htm>

But dogs have it all over humans in detecting motion - that's one reason they can detect a cat up a tree at a much greater distance than you can! And their night vision is typically better than ours - dogs have an additional reflective layer in the eye called the tapetum lucidum, which reflects light back into the receptor cells of the eye, which not only increases their night vision, but gives them that spooky appearance of eyes glowing in the dark.

#### Hearing

When your dog is barking like crazy in the middle of the night, don't just assume he's lonely and wants you to get up and keep him company. He may be listening to something that you can't hear, that's extremely upsetting to him - like a burglar breaking in your basement window.

Dogs can hear at four times the distance humans can - that means you might hear something from a 100 yards away your dog could hear from a quarter of a mile away. Their ears are also better designed to gather more of the available sound wave - they have 15 different muscles that move their ears in all directions, plus they can move one ear at a time - and independently of the other to absorb even more information!

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### Touch

Dogs also have a well-developed sense of touch, surprising perhaps under all that fur, although this sense is much less sophisticated than a human's. Puppies are born with sensory receptors in their faces so they can find mama even if they're separated before they open their eyes. But they also can sense touch all over their bodies, just as humans can. One reason your dog flops down on the couch next to you and tries to snuggle up on a hot day (or any other day for that matter!) is because he likes the comfort of feeling that you're right there!

### Smell

We can't even come close to our dog's ability to smell things. It's been estimated that a dog's sense of smell is 100,000 times more powerful than a human's. Scientists think that humans have about 40 million olfactory receptors, versus 2 billion for your dog! That's part of the reason dogs make such good trackers, and can trace scents across all sorts of distractions - like across roadways or through dense

woods.

Dogs also use their sense of smell as a communications tool - when they're running around the park with their nose to the ground, sniffing everything in sight, they're actually reading the calling cards of everyone - dogs, humans, cats, squirrels, and anyone or anything else, that has been there before him. Which is why he may not pay attention to you when you first get to the park - he's trying to see if any of his buddies have been there before him!

### Taste

Just as with humans, taste is closely linked to the sense of smell - the main difference is humans won't eat something that smells bad; while dogs are the opposite - the smellier the better. Dogs will gulp first and ask questions later.

While humans many times won't eat something that doesn't look appealing, let alone doesn't smell good, dogs are more concerned with smell, than taste. They frequently gobble down food before they have time to chew it, let alone taste it. But that's ok - it's why when we clean out our refrigerators our dogs think it's time for treats.

So the next time your dog engages in some puzzling behavior, whether it's barking for no reason, or ignoring you at the park, he might not be trying to irritate you - he's just responding to a different level of senses than you are. Take a moment to look around and try and figure out what's triggering his behavior before you get mad. Your dog could be trying to tell you something!

<http://tinyurl.com/6u2cj>

Author, "Dog Training Secrets!" To transform your stubborn, misbehaving dog into a loyal, well-behaving "best friend" who obeys your every command and is the envy of the neighborhood, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/6u2cj>

## **Tips For Buying A Dog Collar**

### **By Bob Backstrom**

Dog collars are very fashionable and a must for your dog outdoors. A dog collar could help your dog

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come back home if you have the identification ticket around the neck. It's also a way for your dog to show to the world that he is stylish.

If you own a dog it is normal that you would have a dog collar but many people have at least half a dozen dog collars at home. It is trendy to have different types of dog collars. Dogs too like a change and love to wear different collars. There are different types and designs of dog collars available in the markets. Most dog owners buy dog collars of different colors and while they take their dog out, they try to match their dress with the dogs collar. Celebrities always try to out beat the normal people and always bring their dogs with some unique and fabulous-looking collars. For ages dog collars have been used by dog owners to make the dog look more fashionable and fabulous.

Given below are a few tips that need to be kept in mind while buying a dog collar:

The first point to keep in mind while buying a dog collar is to make sure that the dog collar is comfortable and fits the dog's neck. If the dog's collar does not fit the dog's neck it would lead to soreness. At the same time if it is loose then the dog could slip out.

The dog collar and leash should not be heavy and irritate the dog's neck and throat. While buying a dog collar you should read the specifications of the dogs collar such as weight, suitable for which age, etc.

If you are a proud owner of a big and ferocious dog then make sure the dogs collar is a little heavier so that when the dog starts running you can handle it easily with the leash in your hand.

The buckles of the dog collars should be strong and made of leather, which won't fall apart.

You can buy a dog collar for anywhere from \$10 to more than \$100, but make sure the dog collar is comfortable for your dog.

For other great information about dog collars please check out

and

. For other great updated news and notes about a wide variety of

general interest topics go to

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