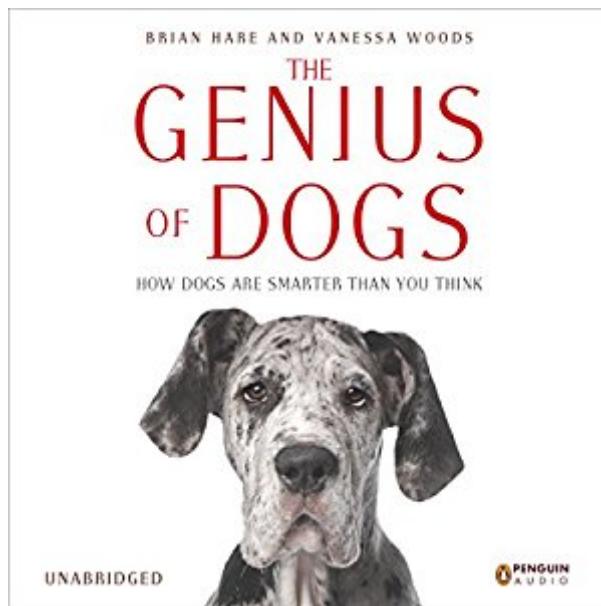


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# The Genius Of Dogs: How Dogs Are Smarter Than You Think



## Synopsis

Brian Hare, dog researcher, evolutionary anthropologist, and founder of the Duke Canine Cognition Center, and Vanessa Woods offer revolutionary new insights into dog intelligence and 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. Brian Hare's stunning discovery is that when dogs domesticated themselves as early as 40,000 years ago they became far more like human infants than their wolf ancestors. Domestication gave dogs a whole new kind of social intelligence. This finding will change the way we think about dogs and dog training - indeed, the revolution has already begun. Hare's seminal research has led him to work with every kind of dog from the tiniest shelter puppy to the exotic New Guinea singing dog, from his own childhood dog, Oreo, to the most fashionable schnoodle. The Genius of Dogs is nothing less than the definitive dog book of our time by the researcher who started a revolution.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A superb book. Dogs have spent the last 14000 years getting better and better at reading humans, and anticipating those humans needs and providing assistance. Communication has been a one-way street with the dog doing all the work. "The Genius of Dogs" is a great first step at turning the tables. Hare and Woods have produced an excellent compilation of current dog research to which they have made a great contribution. The notes at the end cite over 600 recent and current

dog intelligence and behavior studies. That is a quite valuable source of information. The Genius of the dog also brings some sanity to the popular conception of the wolf. As Hare and Woods point out, a wolf pack is a small family group which operates as a cooperative. It has little to do with dominant behavior and subordinate behavior. .This book is a great read and its assertions are well documented with science. I am a dog trainer of 50 years experience. When you say to me, "I love my dog," I say to you, "Your dog deserves no less than for you to read 'The Genius of Dogs'"

The first third of this book was fascinating and it is worth buying for that part. It's clear that the author ran out of material after that, however. There simply isn't enough research on dog cognition to pad out a book this size. Also, the title is misleading. Although he shows that dogs are remarkable (hence the "genius" in the title) when it comes to learning new words and understanding human communication intentions, he also shows that they are unremarkable (and sometimes dumb - as in understanding basic physics such as when something is connected to another object by a rope) in a number of other ways. So, are dogs geniuses? I am a dog lover, and I know that dogs are brilliant when it comes to understanding humans. But they are not so bright in many other ways. No matter; I just want my dog to be loving and loyal and he most certainly is. Is the book worth buying if you are a dog lover? Yes - at half the price, perhaps.

The book... IS light technical reading. It's also pure joy to read. The questions relative to evolutionary biology go well beyond my fur buddy. I will confess that I am a biologist and I do train with my German Shepherd Dog. We have been together for 6 plus years now. For 5 of those years I've been using pointing cues to indicate where we are going or where that ball I tossed went in the river or... well, we now are an agility team. After reading about symbolic representation and dog capability... hmm... wonder if my pup and I could 'discuss' that course map before our next agility run :-) It's a great book IF you really want to consider and maybe push the limits of your relationship with your dog. It's also a great book if you want to ponder some of the wonders of evolutionary biology. I am waiting expectantly for the molecular biologists to explore the nature of that domestication cassette! I certainly came away from this with fresh understanding of the nature of the canine-human relationship. I also came away with a whole bunch of questions about what makes us human.

Anyone - \*\*\*ANYONE\*\*\* - who has a dog (or loves dogs) should read this book. It is NOT the usual "teach your dog new tricks" fare - there are a zillion of those available. Instead, it describes the

UNIQUE abilities dogs have when interacting with people, abilities that are possessed by virtually No Other Animal. The author, a Ph.D. Behavioral Anthropologist, explores WHAT these abilities are and WHY this is so in the book. Even though it is based upon detailed scientific research, it is very readable by anyone interested in dogs. You Will Be Stunned At What You Will Learn From This Book!

This is a great work regarding the evolution of dog intellect and current and past research on the subject. It lays out interesting ideas regarding the domestication of our best little buds (I love cats too tho), and makes no assumptions about our superiority or their inferiority. We're different beasts and yet we can depend on and alter each other's histories in remarkable ways as the book demonstrates. A few of the discussed studies are a bit difficult to understand, probably due to poor explanation, but they provide good examples of how researchers have deduced the capacities of dogs. I recommend this book as a good leisurely read. Very informative. Made me a little more skeptical about my own Boston Terrier and his "intent", especially when he sits like a person with his back to the foot of my bed staring off into the hallway or right at the wall. I'm onto you, Bonzo.

This book is the work of a highly trained specialist whose work with a variety of species lends particular value to his analysis of dogs. We are now on dog # 5, which will tell you something about our ages, and we have been educated by each of these animals. Interesting to us was the analysis of the Basenji, which was our second dog. We might have guessed that she was closer in genetic profile to the wolf than the others. She wasn't easy to train. She could not bark, but her growl was fully sufficient. The dog we have now is a Labradoodle, and is without question the most intelligent of the five. If I had read this book years ago, my life with the dogs between the Basenji and the Labradoodle would have been a lot easier! My one negative comment is that this book is a little longer than it needed to be. An editor would have been helpful. But maybe there was one, in which case . . . oh well. It's good, give it a try!~

The main author of this book is teaching a course on Consera titled Dogs and Cognition. I thought I knew dogs fairly well because of my experience in confirmation and obedience AKC competitions. This book enlarged my knowledge of dogs and made me realize I had a simplific view of canine intelligence. The language of this book is geared towards any education level. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in this subject.

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