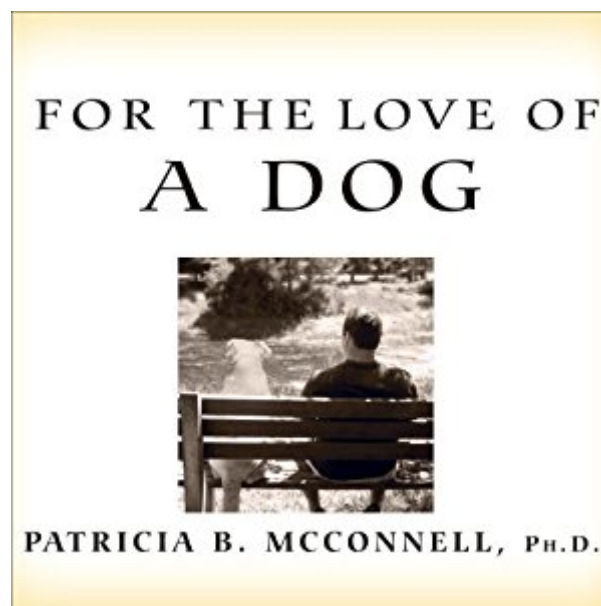


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# For The Love Of A Dog: Understanding Emotion In You And Your Best Friend



## Synopsis

The critically acclaimed author of "The Other End of the Leash" offers fascinating insights into the canine mind-critical tools for a healthy relationship with a well-trained dog. In this remarkable book, renowned canine expert Patricia McConnell answers the questions of dog lovers everywhere. Do dogs have emotions like we do? More to the point, does my dog love me? Such questions have fueled bestsellers like Elizabeth Marshall Thomas' *The Hidden Life of Dogs* and Jeffery Moussaieff Masson's *Dogs Never Lie About Love*. Sharing riveting dog stories from her experiences, Dr. McConnell also offers accessible science that clues readers in to what's going on behind those puppy dog eyes. We learn the fascinating similarities and surprising dissimilarities in dogs' and humans' brains, and how current scientific studies have led McConnell to conclude without a doubt that dogs share a profound emotional life with us. The information found in this book will help readers have better-trained dogs, at the same time deepening their dog-human connections. *For the Love of a Dog* is a must-have for dog lovers everywhere. "Highly recommended..."-library Journal Starred Review --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

We have all seen the faces of the dogs we live with and love every day and wondered what they were thinking or how they were feeling. Now you can really understand them better by reading this well written book. Patricia McConnell not only tells you about the different looks your dog can show, she has photos that absolutely let's you see what your dog is trying to tell you. I think we all know the

face of a dog that is ready to attack but can you tell the difference in one that is mad or scared. The pictures in this book really show the difference. Do you know what a happy or sad dog looks like well again these pictures show you how to see your dog in a new way. Wouldn't it be great if we could understand our animals better? This book is really worth reading if that is something you want to do. I know after reading this book I am more concerned about how I look to my dog. As Miss McConnell speaks about how our dogs spend a great amount of time watching us because they are better students of reading expressions on faces than we will ever be. I am working on training a young dog and have had trouble with recall or come sometime. Miss McConnell, said that facing a dog straight on is a signal in the dog society to stand still and for us to turn slightly side way and to smile or open mouth slightly and call them. WOW what a difference. The dog bounded to me every time I did this. There are more hints on how to understand your dog and a great story of McConnell's life on her sheep ranch and in her practice that make this an interesting read.

Perfect for dog nerds. Which I am quite proudly. In this book, the author blends research findings and science with personal anecdotes and client stories. At the core of the writing is the question: Do dogs have emotions? It's a very complicated matter and I think Patricia does pretty well getting into it. In the beginning, she presents both sides of the issue. In fact, for me, the first 30 pages were tough to get through because one is made to visit all the arguments among various scientists over the years. Eventually, she launches fully into making (I think) a solid case that they do have emotions. The writing style is captivating and thought-provoking. At the end of the book, she opens the question back up, not whether dogs have thoughts and emotions, but to what degree are they similar or not to our own. And you as the reader are invited to arrive at some of your own conclusions. If you're the kind of person that loves dog documentaries for both their science and pure cuteness, I think you'd find this book quite fascinating and informative. And you just might look at your pooch and other canines in the neighborhood in a whole new light!

I'm a first-time dog owner and was looking for a few books on dog training. I decided against the popular Cesar books because the guy strikes me as more a celebrity than any kind of expert. What's more, the dogs that were in his arms on the book cover did not even look happy! This book contains tons of information on new research in animal behavior and neuroscience. I think the most important take-home is that to solve behavioral problems in dogs, you first have to identify the emotions behind the behavior. Is it fear, anger, or frustration? Much aggression in dogs, contrary to common belief, is actually driven by fear. Peeing on the carpet? Also likely due to fear (separation

anxiety, for example). Punishing the dog is not going to rid your dogs of the fear; moreover it's going to increase fear: making the dog fear you. I think a loving, successful relationship is not about the dog obeys you absolutely; it should fulfill both parties of the relationship. The book incorporated face reading from Paul Ekman's research. It's striking how similar facial expressions are in people and dogs. And given misunderstanding happens all the time in our species (remember times when you look bored and the other just kept talking?), it is granted that dogs are misunderstood everyday everywhere. The cost, though, could be deadly. Hundreds of thousands of dogs are put down every year, often due to biting. Occasionally people die tragically from dog attacks. Lots of these attacks could be avoided if people are aware of the emotional states of dogs from reading their faces and bodies. I just watched a Youtube video of a German Shepherd biting a reporter on the face because he was looming over the dog and trying to pet it all the while the dog felt threatened and looked uneasy. For the love of dogs, I hope more people (dog owners or not) understand the thinking of dogs. To understand dogs is also to understand our evolutionary heritage, our "primitive" parts of the brain, and how to be more patient and sympathetic with the whole world.

Excellent, it gave me so many insights and a whole new understanding and appreciation of dogs. Most importantly, I gained much more self-confidence and assurance in the relationship with our new and rather difficult rescue puppy. She had many issues to start with, obviously due to her rough early months and abandonment. There were moments when we nearly lost heart and wondered whether we'd have to give her up again, but Patricia's insights encouraged me to persevere, believe in the progress and - wow, applying her advice and tips, we got a loving, much calmer, much more balanced pup in just a few weeks! The book is very moving, I could relate so much to Patricia's descriptions of our love to our dogs. I thoroughly enjoyed every page! Thank you!

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