

## Myths about Cats & Dogs

Just how much do you know about cats and dogs? Take this true or false quiz below... It's pretty easy... Or is it? Don't look at the answers until you've completed the whole quiz!





- 1. Dogs can "fall in love." TRUE FALSE
- 2. Dogs can only see in black and white. TRUE FALSE
- 3. Cats only purr when they are happy. TRUE FALSE
- 4. Much like a human, each dog has its own special "fingerprint." TRUE FALSE
- 5. You can't teach an old dog new tricks. TRUE FALSE
- 6. Dogs and cats are left or right-handed, just like people. TRUE FALSE
- 7. Dogs and cats hate each other. TRUE FALSE
- 8. If a dog has a dry nose, it means they're sick. TRUE FALSE
- 9. Dogs have clean mouths. TRUE FALSE
- 10. If a dog is wagging their tail, it always means they're happy. TRUE FALSE
- 11. It's okay to leave your dog in the car on a warm day, as long as you leave the window slightly open. TRUE FALSE
- 12. If a cat's tail is straight up in the air, they recognize you. TRUE FALSE



- 13. Your dog can feel guilty for doing something wrong. TRUE FALSE
- 14. Dogs only eat grass because they feel sick. TRUE FALSE
- 15. Unlike dogs, cats are loners and prefer to be by themselves. TRUE FALSE
- 16. When a dog licks its wounds, it speeds up the healing. TRUE FALSE
- 17. Dogs have a sense of time. TRUE FALSE
- 18. Cats and dogs can get jealous sometimes. TRUE FALSE
- 19. Dogs can smell your feelings. TRUE FALSE



## Answers

1. TRUE: They don't call it puppy love for nothing. Science shows that a dog's brain releases oxytocin - the love hormone - when it interacts with humans and dogs, just the same as a human brain does when we hug or kiss.

2. FALSE: Although they can't see the world in full color like we can, dogs can see some colors. Their eyes see fewer colors than ours, so their color vision is similar to that of people who are color blind.

3. FALSE: Cats do purr when they're happy, but that's not the only reason they produce this noise. Cats can also purr to comfort themselves when they're frightened or feeling unwell or in pain. Cats can also purr to comfort their young.

4. TRUE: Well, this was sort of a trick question. Dogs don't really have a fingerprint or special pawprint, but every dog has its own special *noseprint*. A noseprint can be used to identify each individual dog!

5. FALSE: Puppies' brains soak up new information like sponges, and they learn quickly. But, while it may take a little longer, you can teach an older dog many new things.

6. TRUE: Just like people, dogs and cats tend to be left or right-pawed and prefer to use one paw over the other for certain motions and tasks.

7. FALSE: There are many dogs and cats who love each other. But, when introducing a cat or dog who don't know each other, do it slowly over a long period until they get to know each other!

8. FALSE: It's often believed that a healthy dog has a cold, wet nose. However, warm or dry noses are completely normal and healthy for dogs. However, if the nose is ultra-dry and cracked or constantly runny, have your dog checked by a veterinarian.

9. FALSE: Have you seen some of the things dogs put into their mouths? Some dogs even eat poop! While it still is okay for your dog to lick you, brushing their teeth each day would be much healthier.

10. FALSE: Think your dog is showing you how pleased they are every time they wag their tail? Actually, a wag can represent a lot more than happiness. A wagging tail can also be a sign of anger, anxiety, frustration, or nervousness. Pay attention to the dog's eyes and position of its ears to read more of how your dog is really feeling.

11. FALSE, False, and False! You should NEVER leave a dog locked in a car, even for a few minutes. Studies show that the inside temperature can easily be 10 to 15 degrees hotter than the outside temperature in just a few minutes. Studies also show that even if it's just 70 degrees outside, the inside car temperature can reach 115 degrees within several minutes! That's way too hot for any animal!



12. TRUE: Cats generally have their tail straight up when they recognize a friendly person. But BE-WARE! If the cat is switching the tip of their tail - snapping it back and forth - it means they're irritated and it's time to give them some space.

13. Again, FALSE! If you're mad at your dog for having chewed something up and they look "guilty," studies show they only look that way because you're worrying them with your strange behavior. Again, the dog won't remember having done anything wrong a few seconds after it happens, so they won't know why you're upset!

14. FALSE: While a dog might eat grass if their tummy is bothering them, most times a dog eats grass because it's fun, and for some dogs, it's tasty!

15. FALSE: How many times have you been playing a game on the computer and your cat sits on the keyboard? It's because they want to be with you. Many cats prefer human company, while some prefer another kitty's company as well. On top of that, some cats enjoy doggie company!

16. FALSE: Remember #9? You never know what's been in a dog's mouth. In fact, licking may make the wound even worse. It's better for a veterinarian to treat any wound.

17. TRUE: Well, they don't actually read a clock, but dogs can "read" or sense the time of day. They always know when it's time to eat, time for a walk, or when it's time for someone to come home each day.

18. TRUE: While some experts just aren't sure about this, believe it or not, both dogs and cats have a range of emotions and one of them is getting jealous - especially if they see someone getting a special treat or all the attention and they aren't!

19. TRUE: Your dog's sense of smell is about 100,000 times more powerful than your own! They can smell the slightest change in your feelings. Remember the times you have felt nervous and your hands get sweaty? Your dog smells that and knows something is wrong.

## How many did you get right?

- If you got all 19 correct ... Congratulations! You are TOP DOG/TOP CAT, and no one knows more about pets than you do!
- If you got 14-18 correct ... Good job! You are PET SAVVY and know more things about cats and dogs than most people.
- If you got 7-13 correct... Pretty good! You know as much about cats and dogs as most people do!
- If you got 3-6 correct ... You're on your way! You're on your way to learning more and more about pets.
- If you got 0-2 correct... It's time! Yes, it's time to start learning more things about cats and dogs so you can become a knowledgeable pet owner! Learn more about all things animals by visiting pasadenahumane.org/kidsathome for activities.