Remembering Pets

Reminiscing with the Senses

activity connection

Whether a pet is large or small, furry or feathery, they each have a unique personality and add to the fabric of our lives.

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This activity explores several sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures associated with pet ownership.

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Part 1: Remembering Canine Companions

Let's begin with the popular song "(How Much is That) Doggie in the Window?" by Patti Page, which reminds us of some of the many reasons dogs are a great addition to our family.

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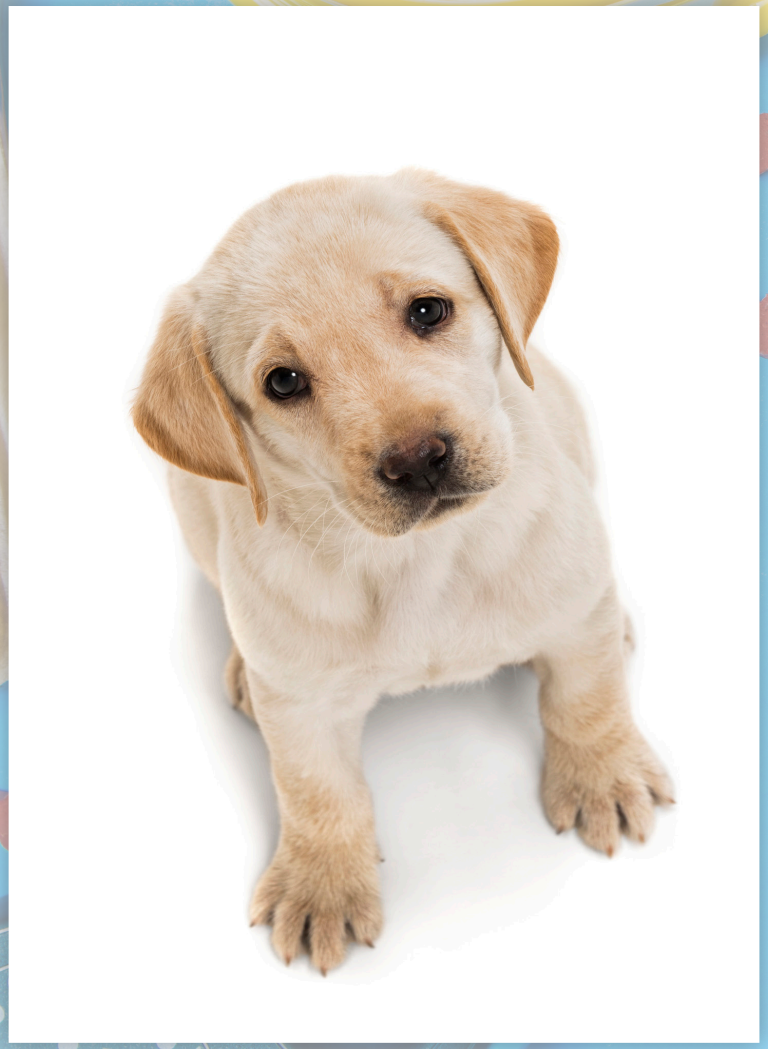
Puppy Dog Eyes



We all know that look… that heart-melting look that dogs give with raised eyebrows.

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Young or old, dogs use their expressive eyebrows to communicate—these "puppy dog eyes" usually elicit a nurturing response from humans.

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What do you see or feel when these puppy dog eyes are looking at you?

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Have you known a dog (or a human) that has mastered this look?

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Wet Noses

The feel of a dog's wet nose against our hand or face can be surprising and endearing.

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Did you know that dogs' noses secrete a thin layer of mucous that helps them absorb scent? They then lick their noses to sample the scent through their mouth.

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Barks, Growls, Howls, and More...

A dog barks, growls, howls, whimpers, and whines to communicate with humans or other dogs.

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Depending on the type of bark, it may be indicating alarm, distress, or pleasure.

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A growl can be hostile or playful. Whining may be a request to go outside or a plea for affection.

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Some dog owners go great lengths to try to teach their dog to "talk." Watch this short video compilation of "talking dogs."

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Dog Treats

Dogs love them, and they look colorful and tasty. Have you been curious enough to try a bite of a dog biscuit on a dare or on a whim? How was it?

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If you have a tasty treat or food in hand, dogs might be more attentive to your commands. What are some common commands that people teach their dog?

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Watch out for that mouth-watering response when you're holding the treat though. A slimy puddle of dog drool can make a real mess on the floor or on your clothes.

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Wet Dogs

Oh, the smell of a wet dog. After a fun day at the river or after a bath, the dreaded “wet dog” smell can make a dog owner cringe.

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Don’t forget to stand clear—dogs have quite the knack for shaking themselves dry. It is estimated that they can shake off 70% of water from their fur in four seconds.

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And it's even more impressive in slow motion. Watch all or part of this slow-motion video and see for yourself. Imagine getting drenched by a wet dog shaking itself dry. Would you likely find this amusing or frustrating?

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Pets become part of the family, and saying goodbye can be very emotional. Let's listen to this thoughtful song of remembrance, "Little Boys Grow Up and Dogs Get Old" by Luke Bryan.

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Do you have photos or sentimental items to remind you of an old pet? Do you recall any of your pets' names?

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THE END

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