

## Facts and Worksheets for Module 2 of Working With Dogs

### Dog Behaviour Facts

In the UK, there is an increasing problem of anti-social behaviour, where dogs are used in an aggressive or intimidating way, towards the public or other animals.

Source: RSPCA

62% of people surveyed in the United Kingdom have been frightened, at least once, due to a dog's negative behaviour.

Source: Statista

### Worksheet for Topic 1: Behavioural Problems in Dogs

It is time to test what you have learned, by way of this worksheet. Set 30 minutes aside, to cover all three activities that have been set. There is a convenient feedback and advice section for you to check what you have written, at the end of each activity.

**Activity 1: List the most common behaviour problems in dogs and how these issues might negatively affect the dog and its owner (allow 10 minutes).**

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#### **Advice and Feedback**

Common issues in dogs are experienced by most dog owners, at least once. Most of the time, it is possible to pinpoint the issue easily and then take steps to eliminate the behaviour. In most cases, the behavioural issues that a dog experiences are able to be remedied, but in others, the best an owner can wish for is to see an improvement.

**Activity 2: Explain the reasons why a dog may become aggressive and explain why aggression in dogs is curable, or why not. (Allow 10 minutes).**

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**Advice and Feedback**

Aggression is one of the most common, yet dangerous, behavioural issues that dog owners experience with their dogs. Although some forms of aggression can be taken care of at home, in other cases, it is necessary to work with a professional canine behaviourist.

**Activity 3: Separation anxiety can be mild or severe. Explain the steps that one should take in both cases, to help dogs that experience this condition (allow 10 minutes).**

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**Advice and Feedback**

Separation anxiety can be quite serious, especially if a dog begins harming themselves, or destroying the home. Many times, this can be fixed at home, but in other cases, as with other conditions, it is best to consult with a professional canine behaviourist.

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## Dog Communication Facts

By varying the tone of a dog's bark, he or she can convey at least 39 different meanings.

Source: Apbc.org.uk

A Japanese study showed that human-puppy eye contact creates a similar bond to the parent-baby contact.

Source: CBS News

## Worksheet for Topic 2: How Dogs Communicate With Humans

It is time to test what you have learned, by way of this worksheet. Set 30 minutes aside, to cover all three activities that have been set. There is a convenient feedback and advice section for you to check what you have written, at the end of each activity.

**Activity 1: This module mentioned five different ways that dogs vocalise, in order to communicate with their human companions. What are those five ways and what do each of them mean (allow 10 minutes)?**

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### Advice and Feedback

As humans, we are most familiar with the vocalisations that dogs make, over any other type of communication. The sounds that come from a dog can tell us a lot about how they are feeling and what they want. This, along with the other signs of communication that dogs give us, allows us to easily understand what our canine companions are trying to say, as soon as we learn their language.

**Activity 2: Dogs use their eyes, necks and heads, to convey certain things to humans. How do dogs use these parts of their body, to communicate with humans? What do specific gestures mean (allow 10 minutes)?**

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**Advice and Feedback**

Body language is a common way in which dogs attempt to communicate with us, but we often do not pick up on this. They are much better readers of body language than we are and can easily read what we are saying with our body language, even if we don't realise we are doing it.

Because dogs read body language so well, experts in dog training recommend that people who train dogs use vocal commands as well as body language, such as pointing.

**Activity 3: Dogs also use scent, to communicate with humans. Not only do they use their own sense of smell, they want others, such as humans, to use their sense of smell too. They rely on us being able to smell some of the things that they are "saying". Discuss how dogs use scent to communicate with humans (allow 10 minutes).**

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**Advice and Feedback**

Dogs have a much better nose than we do, though they probably think that we can smell just as well as they can. The smell of their loving owner is like the sweetest perfume to a dog and it always evokes positive emotions for dogs, which is also why they can find their owners by scent and why they often burrow into the dirty clothing of their owners.

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## Facts for Topic 3: How Humans Communicate With Dogs

Dogs communicate by a variety of different means. Scent, physical appearance, body position, facial expressions, movements and vocalisations, which include numerous different barks, whines and growls, are all used. Many of which can also be understood by well-trained humans.

Source: Onekind.org

People tend to be very unaware of the subtleties of their dog's language. This means that we often fail to recognise when they feel uneasy or threatened - and we rarely give them the space they need.

Source: Agilitynet.co.uk

## Worksheet for Topic 3: How Humans Communicate With Dogs

It is time to test what you have learned, by way of this worksheet. Set 30 minutes aside, to cover all three activities that have been set. There is a convenient feedback and advice section for you to check what you have written, at the end of each activity.

**Activity 1: Before one can learn to “speak” dog, you must make sure that you are learning the different assertive and calming signals. Explain what these signals are and how one can use them, with a dog (allow 10 minutes).**

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### **Advice and Feedback**

Assertive and calming signals are those that one can use with a dog, to either show the dog that they are in charge, or to show the dog that they are not a threat. By using these signals, it is much easier to communicate with dogs, as they use the same signals to communicate with each other.

**Activity 2: Hand signal communication is one way that humans communicate with dogs. This module introduced several reasons why hand communication works so well. Explain this concept and why it works with dogs (allow 10 minutes).**

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**Advice and Feedback**

There are a number of hand signals that one can teach a dog and, in many cases, one can even train a dog to respond to hand signals. This means with certain hand signals, a dog will sit, stay, or even lay down, without any other command.

**Activity 3: Explain how to use body language to get a dog to come to you (allow 10 minutes).**

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**Advice and Feedback**

This module explains one main way to get a dog to come to you, with body language. However, if this body language command doesn't work, there is another way to use body language, in order to prompt the dog to come towards you.

Much of this module should have proven to be fairly straightforward and self-explanatory. However, if you do not feel you have taken in all of the relevant information covered in this module, or you have not been able to complete this worksheet, find the time to run through the module again.