

New findings in canine and welfare science and its relevance to guide dog use

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The field of canine science has been blooming in recent years, and there is much to be learned from it. This presentation will briefly discuss some of the latest studies in companion animal psychology (the science of people's relationships with their pets) and animal welfare science that are relevant to guide dog use. Topics to be addressed include 'love' (Do our dogs love us?) and 'empathy' (Do our dogs know when we are sad?), as well as issues related to training – including an overview of how the limbic system (the part of the brain that controls emotions) relates to learning and thinking; the concept of 'dominance' and how it applies to domestic dogs; and how science can help us improve the welfare of working dogs.

Acknowledgement

Companion animal psychology. (2015). 6 reasons to love canine science. Retrieved on April 5, 2016 from <http://www.companionanimalpsychology.com/2015/05/6-reasons-to-love-canine-science.html>

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