Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know by Alexandra Horowitz

Fascinating Study

What do dogs know? How do they think? The answers will surprise and delight you as Alexandra Horowitz, a cognitive scientist, explains how dogs perceive their daily worlds, each other, and that other quirky animal, the human. Inside of a Dog is a fresh look at the world of dogs -- from the dogs point of view. As a dog owner, Horowitz is naturally curious to learn what her dog thinks about and knows. And as a scientist, she is intent on understanding the minds of animals who cannot speak for themselves. In clear, crisp prose, Horowitz introduces the reader to dogs perceptual and cognitive abilities and then draws a picture of what it might be like to be a dog. What is it like to be able to smell not just every bit of open food in the house but also to smell sadness in humans or even the passage of time? How does a tiny dog manage to play successfully with a Great Dane? What is it like to hear the bodily vibrations of insects or the hum of a fluorescent light? Why must a person on a bicycle be chased? What is it like
to use your mouth as a hand? In short, what is it like for a dog to experience life from two feet off the ground, amidst the smells of the sidewalk, gazing at our ankles or knees? Inside of a Dog explains these things and much more. The answers can be surprising -- once we set aside our natural inclination to anthropomorphize dogs. Inside of a Dog also contains up-to-the-minute research -- on dogs detection of disease, the secrets of their tails, and their skill at reading our attention -- that Horowitz puts into useful context. Although not a formal training guide, Inside of a Dog has practical application for dog lovers interested in understanding why their dogs do what they do. The relationship between dogs and humans is arguably the most fascinating animal-human bond because dogs evolved from wild creatures to become our companions, an adaptation that changed their bodies, brains, and behavior. Yet dogs always remain animals, familiar but mysterious. With a light touch and the weight of science behind her, Alexandra Horowitz examines the animal we think we know best but may actually understand the least. This book is as close as you can get to knowing about dogs without being a dog yourself.

Reviewed by: Nicole Sorkin, Pacific Book Review
Title: Inside of A Dog: What Dogs See, Think, and Know

If you are a dog lover? You will appreciate this book and be very fascinated by all you learn. Full of terrific details and interesting research about dogs. It's been said dogs personify all virtues of humans without vices, and many books have been written on the topic of canine attributes; but none come so close to analyzing the dog thought process as Inside Of A Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, And Know. Alexandra Horowitz provides entertaining and observational works to back scholarly analysis of dog interpretations of their world. Any pet owner will find her analysis astute and entertaining as well. I highly recommend that all who have an interest in dogs or share their lives with dogs purchase and peruse this informative book.

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