The Dogs Have Eyes -- And the Nose Knows

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by Jennifer Horowitz

September 18, 2009

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Writer: JH, 51, pg. 527

Americans this year will spend $30 billion on our companion animals. For many, these furry things are more than playmates; they are family. That's why it's not surprising that a New York psychologist named Jennifer Horowitz would want to find out what else your dogs might be saying when they're barking and playing and rolling in dirt. She's written a book on the subject called: "Inside of a Dog: What Makes Your Pet Think and Feel," which has been called "riveting." But it's not just the research that's riveting. The book provides a unique perspective for dog lovers in seeing the world through a dog's eye.

"I studied for over 15 years, with dogs taking up the lion's share of my time," Horowitz said in a videotape of her pup's play sessions in the park. "In frame-by-frame slow-motion, she describes dogs' social tactics, how they engage in elaborate displays, and how they discover the history and the banter to the fight."

Horowitz's book, she writes, "is the result of nearly 15 years of studying the cognitive abilities of dogs. It's a book for dog lovers, for dog scholars, for people who are interested in how dogs think, for people who are interested in how dogs communicate."

"It's a book for people who are interested in what dogs are doing when they're doing things like dangerous roughhousing, something to break up. But what's going on in canine terms is a fun way of looking at the world, a way of seeing things through a dog's eye."

"Some of the things she's written about are really fascinating," Horowitz said. "I remember reading one where she said that dogs can learn to do things that are not in their nature, like a dog can learn to不喜欢 water."

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