**UNDERSTANDING TAIL WAGGING**

Have you ever wanted to know what your dog was trying to tell you? Recently a Japanese company created a machine that will interpret your dogs feelings based on their barks and say them out loud. Unfortunately the item is only available in Japan right now. But for the rest of us there are some things we can do to understand our dog. Modern researchers have established the fact that dogs share three forms of intelligence with humans.

One is the fact that they can learn from their experiences and apply them to future situations.  They can also follow instructions, while at the same time they are following the steps and procedures out in their head.

The second form of intelligence being, that they can in fact communicate to others. While they are using their sounds and body language, they are transferring an amazing amount of information.

The third intelligence form is their ability to understand the English language. The average dog can understand about sixty words and phrases while some dogs can understand up to three hundred. There are several ways that a dog may try to communicate with us; this article will help you understand a dog's tail wagging. Dogs communicate using their tails because their ancestors used to use their tails to communicate with the rest of their pack. Join your dog's pack; try using some of the following suggestions to get inside your dog's head:

\* When a dog's tail movement is a minimal cautious wag this is a greeting, the shows that the dog is relaxed yet alert to what is happening. It also means that the dog is waiting to see what you'll do next.

\* A slow wag with the tail somewhat lowered means the dog is asking a question because you've done something it doesn't understand and it doesn't know what you expect of him. Your message needs to be phrased in a different way or more insistently.

\* A slight shaking motion with the tail held upright means that this dog is warning you that anything provocative may be answered by aggression. To show whose boss a firm "sit" should calm him down.

\* A rapid wagging through a narrow range of motion with the tail held very low means the dog is sending a message of obedience.

\* If the tail is slightly below vertical and still the dog is projecting a high degree of attentiveness, something has gotten his attention and he is trying to find out what it is.

\* A parallel to the ground and rigid tail is the action for the meaning that a challenge has been   
      acknowledged and accepted and he may be about to test you as the leader.

\* A vertical or almost vertical tail means that your dog thinks he is boss; this isn't a threat it is just the gesture of a confident dog.

\* If the tail is loose and a bit lower than parallel to the ground this means your dog is happy and relaxed.

\*  If your dog is wearing a low tail that is swaying slightly he is trying to tell you the he doesn't feel good. It could be something physical but more likely it shows that the dog is uncertain or down in the dumps (no joke). If you have time play with him or take him for a walk.

\* The last tail action is when the tail is tucked between the legs, this is flat out fear and he probably is expecting to be beaten.

The above signals should give you a fairly good idea of what your dog is thinking. Keep in mind, the tail is just one part of the dog. There are many other techniques you can employ.

 "In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming part dog." We wish you luck on this journey.

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