

Published based on [Your Dog's twisted mind,Smarter than you think?](#)

# **Your Dog's twisted mind,Smarter than you think?**



## Understanding your Dog's Psychology to Understand your Dog Better

Welcome to this newsletter. In this newsletter we are going to explore some of the **basics of dog psychology**. Taking the time to **understand your dog's psyche** a bit better will prove to be quite helpful in understanding your dog and in **applying it when you train your dog**.



### The Basics of Dog Psychology

**Dog psychology is learning to understand why a dog behaves** and acts in the way that he does. It is truly fascinating to think about how the dog (a descendant of the wolf) has adapted itself to the human social organization.

**Dogs have learned to live with and obey humans through successful training.** When you and your dog build a trusting bond, there is a cooperation that is established: the dog behaves well and he will be rewarded.

#### A Wolf Descendant

**To better understand dog psychology it is important to understand how wolves live.**

Wolves live in the wild in packs of two or more. **They use a strictly defined dictatorship system** of males and females.

The **leader or "alpha leader" of this system** is almost always the biggest male in the pack. All of the **other wolves in the pack follow the alpha leader** eagerly and with the utmost respect.

### Wolf Instincts

**Wolves were able to adapt domestically** with man thousands of years ago because of the similar **social organization and instinctive mental or psychological structure**. Wolves are accustomed to dividing duties, particularly when it comes to feeding: one determines the track, one stands on guard, one makes the attack, etc. **The alpha leader is always the first to feed** and when he is satisfied, he allows the other members of the pack to finish his "leftovers."



### Part of the Pack - The Hierarchical System

When you **introduce a dog to your household**, he sees the family as a pack and all the members contribute to the hierarchical system. **Your dog will be watching everyone closely until he can figure out who the alpha leader is** and exactly where he fits into this new system.

He will be **watching for clues such as the physical size** of each family member as well as **the tone of voice that each person speaks with**. He will also notice how everyone interacts with one another throughout the day.

### Establishing the Alpha Role

It is **essential to establish yourself** (or else another responsible adult in your household) as the alpha leader. The sooner this is established, the **fewer behavioral problems you will see**.

You need to not only **establish yourself or someone else as the alpha**, but you must also have a clear understanding that **your dog is at the bottom of your family's hierarchical system**.

If your **dog sees that no hierarchical system** is in place, **he will create one and put himself in charge**. This is when a lot of **dogs can become overly dominant and destructive**. It needs to be very obvious to your dog that he is **subordinate to everyone-including children**.

It is sometimes **difficult for a dog to understand** that he is lower ranked than children, because of their small size and their dependency on adults. For this reason, **dogs can sometimes become very aggressive towards children, and they might even bite** on occasion.

Through disciplined training, you can **help your dog realize that his position is subordinate** to every other family member. **Good quality dog training resources** can help you with this process.

Until the next installment of our newsletter, **all the best with the process of training your dog.**

Remember, training does take time and effort, but it is definitely worth it!

Sharda Baker

Sharda Baker has published several dog ebook and audios. [Click here](#) for more dog training help and advice on dog psychology.

#### **Related articles by Zemanta**

- [Isabel Kaplan: Must Love Dogs](#) (huffingtonpost.com)
- [Good Types of Dog Barking](#) (mypetkingdom.info)
- [How to Correct Dog Training Problems](#) (animaltopics.com)

You can also find this article published on [Your Dog's twisted mind.Smarter than you think?](#), and on the tag pages [alley dog psychology](#), [dog pack psychology](#), [dog psychology](#), [dog psychology the basis of dog training](#), [dog psychology training](#), [dogs psychology](#), [psychology dog bell](#), [psychology of dogs](#), [understanding dog psychology](#).