
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Media English 媒体英语

Dogs 'can read canine emotions'

狗可以读懂犬类同胞的情感



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意大利研究人员称，与人类相同，犬类可以快速模仿同类动物的表情，同时也展示出能读懂同胞情感的能力。以下是 Helen Briggs 的报道。

The ability to feel **empathy** is built into the human brain. We smile or laugh almost instantly in response to others. Until now this ability was thought to extend only to our closest animal relatives such as **orangutans** and **chimps**.

Now researchers at the University of Pisa say dogs may be able to **tune into** the emotions of their canine companions. After studying hours of videotapes of dogs playing in a park, they said the animals can **mimic** each other's facial expressions and movements in a **split-second**, building **social bonds**.

The Italian scientist believe dogs may be showing a basic form of empathy which could have evolved when their ancestors became **domesticated**.

词汇表

empathy	同感，共鸣
orangutans	（红毛）猩猩
chimps	黑猩猩
tune into	感应到
mimic	模仿
split-second	一瞬间，一刹那，一眨眼的功夫
social bonds	社会连结，社会联系
domesticated	被驯养了的

测验

请听报道并回答下列问题。

1. True or False? *Scientists were not surprised to find out dogs' ability to "read emotions" because other animals do it too.*
2. How did the scientists conduct their research?
3. How do dogs create social bonds?
4. According to the Italian scientists, did the dogs' ancestors behave in the same way?

答案

1. True or False? *Scientists were not surprised to find out dogs' ability to "read emotions" because other animals do it too.*

False. The researchers thought only human's closest animal relatives could do it, so they were surprised when they found out dogs have the ability to "read emotions" too.

2. How did the scientists conduct their research?

By studying hours of videotapes of dogs playing in a park.

3. How do dogs create social bonds?

By copying each other's facial expressions and movements.

4. According to the Italian scientists, did the dogs' ancestors behave in the same way?

No. According to the Italian scientists dogs' behaviour evolved this way after they were domesticated.