Study shows dogs get jealous of other dogs

26th July, 2014

Dog lovers have known since time began that pets get jealous, but now a new study has shown that it is true. A professor from the University of California conducted research into what makes dogs jealous. Dr Christine Harris first decided to investigate canine jealousy after she noticed strange behaviour among her parents' three border collies. She noticed that when she stroked two of the pooches at the same time, they became aggressive towards each other. Both dogs tried to knock her hand away from the other so they could receive maximum attention. She said: "To me, that really fit with the core motivation of jealousy….I was petting them with both my hands, not just one. They wanted exclusive attention. That got me to thinking about jealousy in dogs."

Professor Harris adapted a jealousy test commonly used on young children. He research team conducted tests on 36 different dogs in their homes and videoed their reactions. The dogs' owner had to read a short passage from a book while petting a toy dog that wagged its tail and a Halloween lantern. Harris wanted to see how the dogs reacted to their owner petting the toy dog, as well as looking at if they had any reaction to the petting of the lantern. She noticed that the dogs were twice as likely to be jealous of the toy dog. A third of the dogs tried to muscle in between the toy and its owner. Professor Harris thinks it is important to understand jealousy more. She said: "Jealousy is the third-leading cause of non-accidental homicide across cultures."

Sources: *SydneyMorningHerald / Scientific American / Reuters*

Writing

Men get more jealous than women. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

dog lovers / jealous / research / strange behaviour / aggressive / motivation / attention / young children / reactions / passage / Halloween / accidental / homicide / cultures

True / False

a) Dog lovers have always known that dogs get jealous. T / F

b) A professor studied jealousy in dogs after observing her parents' dogs. T / F

c) A professor watched as two dogs try to bite her hand. T / F

d) The woman was stroking the dogs with one hand. T / F

e) Researchers used a test usually used with children on the dogs. T / F

f) Owners had to sing to their dog as part of the research. T / F

g) Dog owners tried to make their dog jealous by petting a lantern. T / F

h) Jealousy is the second biggest cause of non-accidental homicides. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	study	a.	modified
2	conducted	b.	sole
3.	noticed	c.	extract
4.	petting	d.	did
5.	exclusive	e.	response
6.	adapted	f.	report
7.	commonly	g.	stroking
8.	passage	h.	source
9.	reaction	i.	observed
10.	cause	j.	frequently

Discussion – Student A

a) Do you think dogs in the wild get jealous?

b) What can we learn about jealousy from dogs?

c) Would you get aggressive if you were jealous?

d) Someone said jealousy is a mental cancer? Do you agree?

e) Why might dogs get jealous of cats?

f) What might other animals get jealous of?

g) How could this research help reduce non-accidental homicides?

h) What questions would you like to ask professor Harris?

Phrase Match

1.	Dog lovers have known	a.	behaviour
2	conducted research into what	b.	from a book
3.	strange	c.	attention
4.	receive maximum	d.	homicide
5.	I was petting	e.	leading cause
6.	videoed their	f.	since time began
7.	a short passage	g.	as likely to be jealous
8.	dogs were twice	h.	them with both my hands
9.	Jealousy is the third-	i.	reactions
10.	non-accidental	j.	makes dogs jealous

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you get jealous about?

b) Why do people like dogs?

c) Are dogs "a man's best friend"?

d) What things might dogs get jealous about?

e) What can owners do to stop dogs getting jealous?

f) Why might humans be jealous of dogs?

g) How harmful is jealousy?

h) Who have you been jealous of?

Spelling

1. A <u>roossrpfe</u> from the university

2. <u>cunddoect</u> research

3. <u>eisngviatte</u> canine jealousy

4. <u>svsiegreag</u> towards each other

5. the core <u>nmotioiatv</u> of jealousy

6. They wanted <u>ucexleivs</u> attention

7. <u>oncmyolm</u> used on young children

8. videoed their <u>itrnaesco</u>

9. a short <u>epsasga</u> from a book

10. dogs tried to <u>cumlse</u> in

11. the third-<u>anelgdi</u> cause

12. non-accidental <u>edcihmio</u>

Answers – Synonym Match

1.	f	2.	d	3.	i	4.	g	5.	b
6.	a	7.	j	8.	c	9.	e	10.	h

Role Play

Role A – Love
You think love is the most understandable reason to get jealous. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why people shouldn't get jealous about their things. Also, tell the others which of these things people should never get jealous about (and why): looks, clothes or mobile phones.

Role B – Looks
You think looks is the most understandable reason to get jealous. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why people shouldn't get jealous about their things. Also, tell the others which of these things people should never get jealous about (and why): love, clothes or mobile phones.

Role C – Clothes
You think clothes is the most understandable reason to get jealous. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why people shouldn't get jealous about their things. Also, tell the others which of these things people should never get jealous about (and why): looks, love or mobile phones.

Role D – Mobile phones
You think mobile phones is the most understandable reason to get jealous. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why people shouldn't get jealous about their things. Also, tell the others which of these things people should never get jealous about (and why): looks, clothes or love.

Speaking – Jealousies

Rank these with your partner. Put the things people get jealous of most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- love
- shoes
- mobile phone
- car
- looks
- talents
- body shape
- English ability

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.