

# THE MISUNDERSTOOD DOG



## Contents

### Preface

What does a dog mean to a human being?

Myth: »Man domesticated the wolf and the keeping of dogs rests on thousands of years of tradition«

Does the dog make the man sexy?

Myth: »Myths belong in the past. These days we base our knowledge of dogs on science and experience«

What should the dog eat?

Myth: »Some breeds are more intelligent than others«

Can the colour of its coat influence the dog's behaviour?

Are short-nosed dogs different?

Myth: »Dogs are smart animals. They understand a lot and easily learn new things«

Copycats: monkeys or dogs?

Can dogs count?

Myth: »Dogs are opportunists that bond to the one who gives it food«

Should you comfort a frightened dog?

Should you show your teeth to the dog?

Myth: »You must have a command for every new thing the dog learns, otherwise it will get confused and not understand what it must do«

Does the dog howl because its ears hurt?

Does the dog live in a world of scent?

Myth: »Dogs need a dominant leader«

Castrate the male dog, or not?

Should the dog be trained?

Myth: »Dogs are colour-blind«

Why does the dog spill when it drinks?

How does the dog's nose work?

Myth: »Avoid direct eye contact with dogs, as it can make them uncertain and aggressive«

Does the dog wag its tail when it's happy?

Does the dog have a concept of time?

Myth: »The dog cannot think in several steps«

What does the dog mean to me?

References

## Den missförstådda hunden

Per Jensen

170x230, 176 p

*Are you one of those people who believes that dogs are unable to think in several steps and that they have no concept of time? That they are colour-blind and must have a strong leader to be well? That the dog listens more to your tone of voice than your words when you talk? In that case new research has some surprises in store for you.*

**M**uch of what has been believed about how dogs function has shown itself to be completely false. In *The misunderstood dog* Per Jensen explains with objectivity, humour and warmth how research has disproved one myth after the other. Among other things you will find out why dogs cannot drink water without spilling it all over the floor, why it is absolutely right to comfort them if they have hurt themselves, and how the sense of sight of pugs differs from that of sighthounds.

Per Jensen runs through a number of different misunderstandings that most dog owners will recognise. For each one he describes research reports which by using different methods show how matters really are. Researchers have among other things created experiments in which dogs themselves explain things through their own behaviour. But the most advanced technology has also been used to map the brains of dogs and create images of their innermost thoughts. Research has shown that in many respects we must re-evaluate our ideas on how dogs function - after reading this book you will no longer view things the same way.



## About the author

**Per Jensen** is professor of ethology, the study of animal behaviour, at Linköping university. He leads a research team that among other things studies dogs' behaviour and relations to people and is a regular contributor in a variety of media on issues of animals and animal protection. Per has written several books on dogs, the latest *How smart is your dog?* (2015).



**BENNET AGENCY**  
SÖDER MÅLARSTRAND 21  
118 20 STOCKHOLM  
SWEDEN  
MOBILE: +46 704 67 42 70  
WWW.BENNETAGENCY.COM

