

## 6 Ways to say 'I Love You' in Dog Speak



How do you show your pooch that you love him? Hugs? Kisses? Pats on the head?

What if we were to tell you that when you give your pooch a bear hug or pat him on the head, your furry friend is actually feeling that you're showing signs of dominance, and he just gives in and plays along?

Your dog's way of showing and receiving love and affection is very different from that of his human parents.

Why don't we learn how to show our boundless love to our pooches, in a language that they understand? And unlearn a thing or two, while we're at it.

## Make Time For Your Pooch In The Mornings



Spending some one-on-one time with your pooch in the morning will mean a lot to him. If you already have a hectic schedule and dread anything elaborate, try waking up ten minutes early and include your dog in it. Finishing his walk before you do this, might be a good idea as he would need to finish his morning business.

Cuddling with him, soon as you are back, even if it is just for five minutes, will make your pooch super happy and set the tone for the rest of his day.

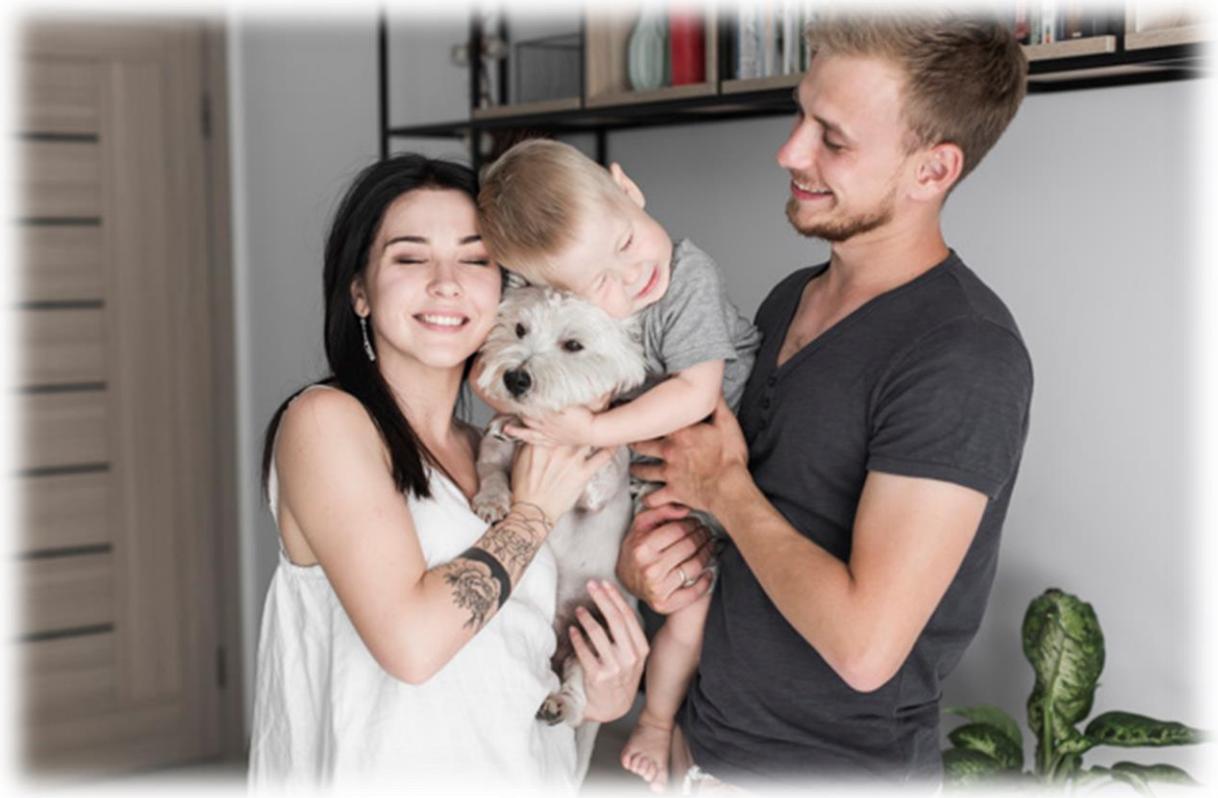
## Let Fido Watch You As You Work



Letting your dog be around you as you go about your work, will make him feel like he's a part of your day. So just let him lounge near you, as you finish making that urgent report on your laptop. And interact with him every so often. Your pooch would respond to and appreciate the interaction, no matter how small. It will remind him that you love him, and you get adorable, saucer-eyed company as a bonus!

You can involve your pooch, even when you spend time together as a family, to show him that he's a valued member of your pack. Just invite him to be with the family, when you're watching television together, for instance. You can even enrich his experience by giving him something to chew on, while the humans in your family enjoy the movie.

## Don't Be A Petting Hammer



Yes. You heard that right. Dogs don't like hugs.

In the animal world, hugging amounts to a dominant or assertive gesture like mounting or humping. And that's surely not what we are trying to convey to them, when we hug our dogs. So how then, do we express our love to them?

The first thing that we need to understand and start doing is – respecting their space. An overzealous hug, or overly physical 'petting' is definitely not a great idea. The least threatening pet that we can give to a dog is stroking him under the chin. Or better yet, scratch behind his ears. Have you noticed, how, when you scratch your dog behind its ears, it leans into your hand trying to get you to scratch some more and seems to go into a light trance?

Ear rubs put your dog in a completely relaxed and calm state. That's because a dog's ears are full of tiny nerve endings that, upon being stimulated by a touch, send signals to the rest of the body, and release endorphins – the feel-good hormones. So the next time you give your dog an ear-rub to show him that you love him, rest assured, he's definitely getting the message!

## **Reinforce Good Behavior**



As pet-parents, we are used to chiding our pets when they misbehave. We feel it's important to do that, to curb bad behavior.

But how often do we give them positive reinforcement for something good that they've done? Let's remind ourselves to praise them when they're just lying next to us quietly or doing something cute. Every time we do that, we reinforce the good behavior and it happens more often.

So the next time you see your pooch being a really good boy while you finish your work, just go over to him and praise him gently, or give him a healthy treat. Consistent positive reinforcement like this will not just make him calmer over time, but also strengthen your bond with him.

## Let Him Tag Along On Short Drives



Most dogs love car rides. Especially ones that don't end at the Vet's clinic.

Taking Fido along, if you have to run a quick errand that doesn't require for you to get out of the car, (like picking someone up) is a great adventure for him that he'll love you for.

A word of caution. It's never a good idea to leave your dog alone in the car, as it can get heated up pretty fast and can become quite dangerous for your pet to be in.

## A Walk Before You Call It A Day



Even when you've taken the time to walk your dog during the day, it's a great idea to take a slightly longer nightly stroll with your pet, and end the day together. Your pooch will love the time with you, and the exercise will tire him enough to help him sleep peacefully through the night.

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