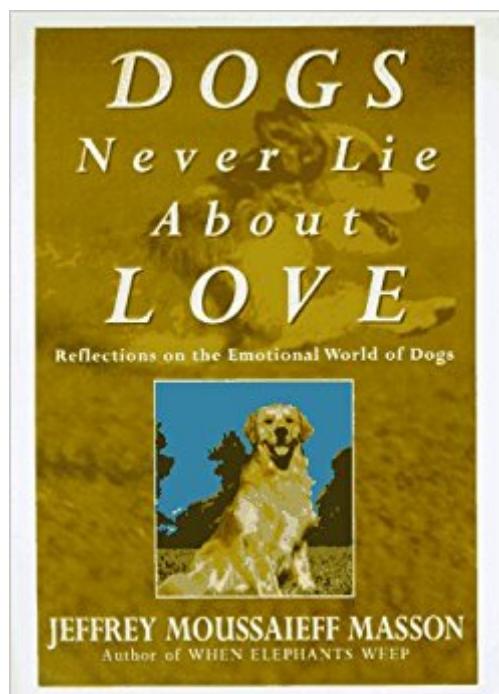


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# Dogs Never Lie About Love: Reflections On The Emotional World Of Dogs



## Synopsis

Americans have an intense love for their dogs: thirty-five percent of American households owned a dog in 1994, representing a dog population of more than 52 million. "It hardly seems worth asking the question of why we love them," writes noted psychoanalyst Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson. "We love dogs because they love us, unconditionally." No matter how we treat them, what we do to them, how little attention we pay to them, they are eager to please us, eager to be with us. In Dogs Never Lie About Love, the New York Times best-selling author of When Elephants Weep shifts his attention from the jungle to the living room to explore the exotic and unchartered territory of dog emotion. Why do dogs bark? Why don't cats and dogs "fight like cats and dogs"? Do some dogs commit suicide from despair? Drawing from scientific studies, legends and literature, and from the stories of dog trainers and lovers around the world, Dogs Never Lie About Love raises our level of consciousness to the rich and fascinating world of canine emotion. The book demonstrates how our affection for dogs is similar to our love of children - how both live and feel in the present, and how children and (especially) dogs are eager to offer us unconditional love. Most poignantly, however, Dogs Never Lie About Love, reveals that although dogs exhibit a wide range of observable emotions, love is their master emotion and is what guides and defines their existence. In this provocative work, Masson sweeps aside old prejudices on animal behavior and challenges scientists to resist dismissing the claim of canine emotion as anthropomorphism (assigning human characteristics to nonhumans) unless they are able to prove that dogs are emotionless animals. Heartwarming, inspiring, and always entertaining, Dogs Never Lie About Love is a compelling journey into the lives of dogs, told eloquently through the observations and experiences of Masson's own three dogs Sasha, Sima, and Rani whose delightful and sometimes odd behavior provides the means to exploring a wide range of subjects: from emotions like gratitude, compassion, loneliness, and disappointment to speculating about what dogs dream, how they perceive humans and other species, and how their powerful sense of smell greatly influences their memory and experience of reality (humans have about 5 million olfactory cells, whereas dogs have up to 220 million.) Dogs Never Lie About Love discusses why dogs are not finicky at the dinner bowl, why no breed is aggressive by nature, and the emotional significance of tail wagging. Dogs Never Lie About Love will captivate readers with its inquisitive, playful, and serious sides, giving readers a new understanding of the hidden world of dog emotion. With compelling dog stories from around the world, Dogs Never Lie About Love offers long-overdue pause for thought about humanity's best and most loyal friend.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson was, oddly enough, pet-free when he decided to write about their key role in his life. Not to worry, though. In a trice he acquired a troika of pups (a purebred and two mongrels) and a couple of kittens. (The pussycats, alas, play only cameo roles.) In Dogs Never Lie About Love, Masson finds plenty of new things to say about canines--not that there hasn't been a plenitude of pupper reportage in the '90s. Or at least he easily articulates what some of us might already think: "Dogs feel more than I do (I am not prepared to speak for other people)," Masson asserts. "They feel more, and they feel more purely and more intensely." Often, however, he seems to be writing less about animals than humans: "In searching for why we are so inhibited compared with dogs, perhaps we can learn to be as direct, as honest, as straightforward, and especially as intense in our feelings as dogs are." But this book is not just a cozy mix of navel gazing (bestial and human) and long, leash-filled walks. Masson offers several proofs that dogs do take the high moral road--one police pooch, for instance, refused to acknowledge his handler's attack command. A good thing, too, since Masson himself would have been the victim! In more ways than one, Dogs Never Lie About Love is a Milk-Bone masterpiece.--Kerry Fried --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Two years after his best-selling *When Elephants Weep* (LJ 5/15/95), controversial psychoanalyst Masson provides us with another blockbuster about the emotional lives of animals. Using "evidence" that he admits is decidedly anecdotal and speculative, Masson offers a thoroughly engaging

discussion of what it means to think and feel as dogs do. Masson looks at the foundation of the human-dog bond, love, loyalty, heroism, submission, dominance, gratitude, fear, loneliness, dignity, humiliation, disappointment, sadness, and aggression. He also provides insightful chapters on dogs at work and at play, dog dreams, and dogs vs. cats. Whether or not you agree with Masson's conclusions, he is a skilled philosopher and accomplished writer. An extensive chapter-by-chapter bibliography is included, as well as the promise of a thorough index. This book is very different from Elizabeth Marshall Thomas's popular *The Hidden Life of Dogs* (LJ 4/15/93) in that it is more comprehensive and does more than follow the lifestyle of one person's pets. Highly recommended.-?Edell Marie Schaefer, Brookfield P.L., Wis. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

IT sounds like some of these persons who wrote reviews have never had a REAL experience with a critter in their lives. Science is not good at truly proving emotions of an animal!! They do it without themselves being willing to be emotional themselves and expect RIGHT off the results will be the same as they feel. A CLOSED MIND IS AN EMPTY ONE! )Jeffery Writes Of his own experiences which my writing classes taught me to do. You cannot write about a subject unless you yourself have that knowledge which this man proves he has!...I have five four leged "people" (two independent cats) and they are allot like what this book talks about. My little girl dog has cried with me when I am not well. Not in voice, but she shows how she feels with large sad eyes and pinned back ears and when she is happy her eyes gleam excitement and she literaly dances her joy... He says dogs smell what we cannot see. Well, every time I ask my dogs who is there they all respond not only with ears but the twitching of noses. They are trying to smell what they hear!He is right on about the great fear of a dog, loneliness and abandoment. My dogs all look at me with "why must we stay behind" and I can clearly see Disapointment on all three faces when I have to leave. It is then I have heard barks and howls when I leave and a neighbor ( who has critters too) told me this will go on for about 20 mins after I am gone. And when I return they are right there barking and sometims howling at my return with big smiles. I have seen then show embarrassment many times. One dog had thought I threw a ball for him whereas I hid it behind me. He looked everywhere and would not stop looking untill I showed it to him..he then looked very surprised and his ears went down and looked at the other dogs in turn as if loking to see if they saw what happened then sat right where he was looking away till I actually threw the ball. He got a big grin on his face and took of after it. At LEast give this book a chance before condeming it.

Absolutely one of my favorite canine texts that is a classic. Illuminates the truth that canines are the far more evolved species and it is the human world that has a long road to catching up with canines. Proof all canines go to heaven, it is the humans that need to work to get there.

#### EXCELLENT BOOK FOR ANY DOG LOVERS.

An unbelievable amount of research. He takes us on an intimate journey with so much love. I was overwhelmed by his caring and endless concern. This is an amazing history, not only dealing with the origin and domestication of these mystical animals, but also about the unique relationship we have with them. A wonderful read.

This book changed the way I look at dogs. Not that I wasn't a dog lover before (ask anyone in my family), but it made me really think of them as truly independent beings. It's a great read, although more than a little heady at times. If you're not a strong reader, be prepared to slog through a few parts. I love the way Masson uses his "pack" as his examples, it makes it easy to relate it to my own dog!

A great book with a great title. Very insightful info into the habits, quirks and emotions of dogs. As always, fast shipping.

Sappy, general book about dog behavior. It was mostly stuff I'd already read somewhere else.

I bought this for my ladyfriend. She insists(!) on reading the stories to me. I enjoy them, of course (Of course.).

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