Dogs don’t just say what they’re feeling with sound. Body language plays a huge part in how canines communicate. The position of a dog’s ears, mouth, and tail tells how it’s feeling. A dog’s tail in particular is like a billboard that says what it’s thinking.

Wagging back and forth: Means a dog feels relaxed and friendly

Circling like a pinwheel: Signals a dog feels excited and happy

Angled high: Means a dog feels confident and sure of itself

Standing straight up: Tells you that a dog feels tense, alert, and wary of danger

Tucking down low: Means a dog feels scared and nervous

Wagging low: Tells you that a dog feels worried or uncertain

Dogs only wag their tails at people and other animals. They don’t wag at objects that can’t respond.

Dogs can feel jealous. They act bothered when they see other dogs get treats and they don’t.
Many experts think that around 20,000 years ago, wolves and humans started to live side by side. Over time, some animals became tamed. Eventually these pooches became guard dogs and hunting buddies. They chased away dangerous animals. They ate food that humans threw away. Our friendship with dogs had begun.

Dogs didn’t become human’s best friend by accident. It helps that dogs are highly intelligent and capable of learning quickly.

1/ACTIVITY: Most dogs can learn new behavior in just four tries. If you have a dog, think of a new trick and try to teach it to your pooch. Keep the instruction enjoyable for best results. When dogs obey a command, offer a small treat or happy-sounding “good dog!” Some dogs even have jobs such as herding, guarding, therapy, or rescue.

2/ACTIVITY: What traits do you think these working dogs should possess?

HERD DOG       GUARD DOG      THERAPY DOG      RESCUE DOG

3/ACTIVITY: What would you name a new dog?

FUN FACTS!

1/ A dog can smell half a teaspoon of sugar in an Olympic-size pool!

2/ Dogs have three eyelids!