

Tekst 4

## Take a Bow-Wow

*Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell and Know*

by Alexandra Horowitz

354pp, Simon & Schuster, £9.99

(1) Even in the middle of a busy modern city, we're surrounded by all kinds of animals that share our space and our food, but only one of them bothers to study us. To rats, crows and cockroaches, we might be a source of tasty snacks, but we're mostly an irritation and sometimes a threat. Dogs are different. They inspect our actions, interpret our emotions and, over time, learn how to please us and control us, persuading us to provide them with food, shelter and a nice warm basket. Alexandra Horowitz describes dogs as "anthropologists<sup>1)</sup> among us", and in this engaging book she studies them with the same intensity and affection that they devote to us.

(2) Horowitz, who is a psychologist studying dog behaviour, began her career observing rhinos and bonobos, which are apparently much more respectable subjects for a young graduate. Scientists aren't interested in dogs because they are "so familiar, so understood". Then she took a camera to her local park to film other people's dogs and, sitting through hours of footage, realised that she was watching "a complex dance requiring mutual cooperation, split-second communications and assessments of each other's abilities and desires. The slightest turn of a head or the point of a nose now seemed directed, meaningful."

(3) The heart of Horowitz's work is an empathetic quest to experience the world from a dog's perspective. First, she asks us to imagine relying on smell rather than sight as our primary sense. Dogs have exceptionally sensitive nostrils, so they can 12 fear, anxiety or sadness. Then she works through the other senses, pausing to explain how a dog's retina works differently from ours – and thus why dogs don't watch TV – and what barking might mean. She reminds us of one obvious but easily forgotten difference between our perspective and a dog's: they are much closer to the ground. When we yell at dogs for jumping up at us, we're failing to understand that they're simply trying to reach our level and make eye contact.



(4) Although this book certainly isn't a training manual, Horowitz offers all kinds of useful advice for dog owners. She neatly dismisses several of the simplistic theories that are often trotted out by trainers. Dogs aren't

wolves, she reminds us, and there's no need for us to dominate them or persuade them that we are their leaders. A dog in a family has almost nothing in common with a wolf in a pack, and behaving like the "pack leader" won't make a dog respect us. More likely, it'll just feel confused and bullied. Dogs, unlike wolves, are skilled observers and interpreters of human behaviour. They take their cues from their owners, following our wishes and learning how to use us to get what they want. They use us as their tools to solve the puzzles of closed doors and empty water dishes. (5) Most interestingly, Horowitz describes how dogs also learn to confirm our prejudices about other people. Dog owners often claim that their pet is a good judge of character;

in fact, when their dog greets a stranger with a wagging tail or raised hackles, it will be mimicking its owner's own unconscious signals, which it has gleaned through body language and smells. There's nothing wrong, says Horowitz, in allowing your dog to accept or veto your romantic partners; it will simply be confirming the choice that you have already made.

(6) Horowitz occasionally lapses into the awkwardness of an academic trying to befriend ordinary readers, but *Inside of a Dog* mostly manages to be entertaining and jargon-free, and will fascinate anyone who wants to know more about the internal workings of a dog's mind.

*The Guardian, 2010*

noot 1 anthropologists = scientists who study human behaviour

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- “learn how to please us and control us” (alinea 1)  
In de alinea’s 2 tot en met 4 wordt met andere woorden hetzelfde nog eens gezegd.
- 1p 10 Citeer de eerste twee woorden van de zin uit alinea 2 tot en met 4 waarin hetzelfde nog eens wordt gezegd.
- 1p 11 What is the main conclusion from paragraph 2?
- A Scientific books on the behaviour of dogs have become increasingly popular.
  - B Studying the conduct of domestic animals is more rewarding than examining that of exotic animals.
  - C The interaction between humans and dogs is actually very sophisticated.
  - D The research on pets that live in urban areas is too limited to be meaningful.
- 1p 12 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 3?
- A detect
  - B diminish
  - C intensify
  - D simulate
- 1p 13 Which of the following characterises paragraph 3?
- A It describes the method Horowitz applies in explaining dog behaviour.
  - B It explains why some people treat their dog cruelly without meaning to.
  - C It indicates that dogs resemble humans in most physical aspects.
  - D It makes clear that Horowitz’s approach is not right for aggressive dogs.
- 2p 14 Geef van elk van de onderstaande beweringen aan of deze wel of niet in overeenstemming is met de inhoud van alinea 4.
- 1 Dogs are able to manipulate human beings.
  - 2 Dogs require control from higher-ranking group members.
  - 3 Wolves tend to stick to the company of their own species.
  - 4 Wolves often show submission to humans.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.
- 1p 15 What becomes clear from paragraph 5?
- A A dog knows better than its owner which people to trust or mistrust.
  - B A dog should be taught to follow the rules of behaviour their owner prefers.
  - C Dogs copy their masters’ likes and dislikes by picking up physical signs.
  - D Dogs instinctively sense if another creature poses any danger to them.

- 1p 16 Which of the following reflects the reviewer's opinion on *Inside of a Dog*, according to paragraph 6?
- A The book has interesting details but offers no new information to experts.
  - B The book is a gripping read for those who want to learn about the way dogs think.
  - C The book is almost unreadable because of its use of dry and scholarly language.
  - D The book is eminently suitable for dog instructors because of its many examples.