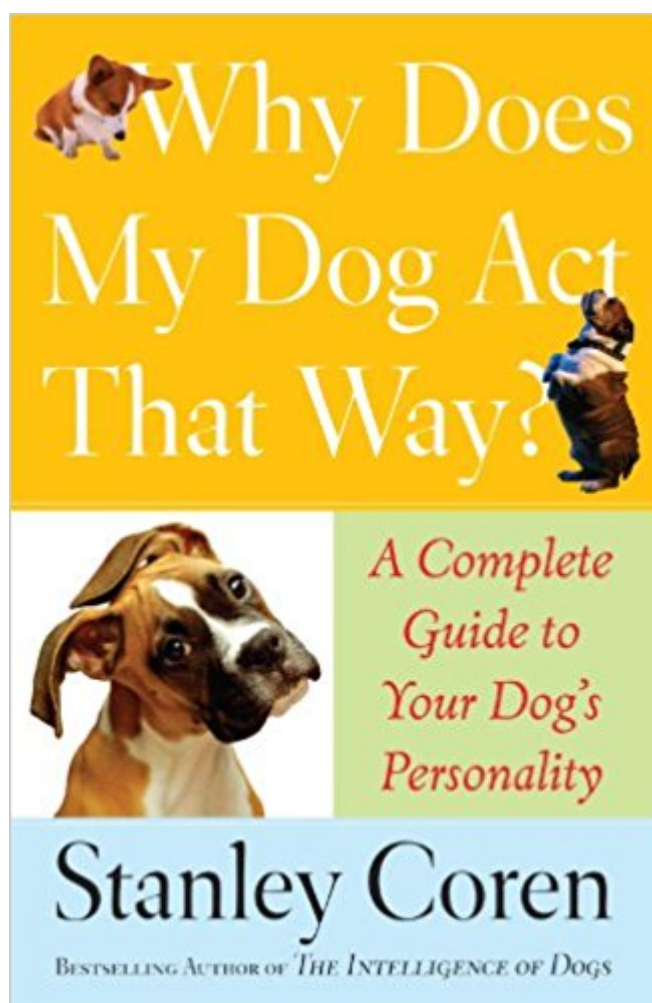


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# Why Does My Dog Act That Way?: A Complete Guide To Your Dog's Personality



## Synopsis

We've shared our lives with dogs for thousands of years, but they still act in ways that baffle us. To help us understand them better, Dr. Stanley Coren, the undisputed expert on dog behavior, intelligence, and training, tells the story of how dogs evolved over time into the myriad forms and breeds we love today. Not simply domesticated wolves, dogs are actually much more complex than wild canines; their ability to adapt to a man-made world is far more flexible, their personalities far more diverse. Fascinating findings reveal which breeds were bred to become more dominant, affectionate, cooperative, or even dangerous. This practical, surprising book also presents -- for the first time -- the "Dog Behavior Inventory," a simple, fun test based on the personality-profiling questionnaires used in human psychological studies that you can administer to your own dog to get a detailed picture of his personality and how he compares to other members of his breed. Then, using the findings of the U.S. Army's once- classified studies of "Superdogs," you can train your pet to become a real-life equivalent of Lassie and Rin Tin Tin -- a dog who is not disturbed, angered, or frightened by anything. Filled with the entertaining anecdotes and scientific data that Dr. Coren's avid followers have come to expect and enjoy, this uniquely complete guide to dog psychology can help you to select a new companion and to understand and communicate better with your old friend.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Psychologist and dog expert Coren (Why do Dogs Have Wet Noses?, The Intelligence of Dogs) returns with another insightful, fascinating look at everyone's best friend in this primer on the canine psyche. Drawing on a rich body of research, Coren patiently and

systematically explains that dogs come hardwired with reliable personalities, allowing their human companions to interpret and predict their everyday behavior. Armed with that knowledge, Coren gives readers tips on how to create a "superdog," a welcome four-legged family member who socializes well with others and isn't overly emotional. Along the way, Coren debunks a number of myths (among them that dogs are little more than domesticated wolves), offers development tips for the key stages in a dog's life (beginning at birth) and providing owners a complete roadmap for socializing their puppies. Devoted fans will note that some material overlaps Coren's previous work, but this illuminating handbook is still an indispensable reference for dog owners as well as shelters and rescue groups. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Coren's love for dogs shines like a beacon...[a] thoughtful and fascinating exploration of the mind of a dog." -- Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D., author of *The Other End of the Leash*"The author, a psychologist, cleverly combines scholarship, opinion, and anecdotes...Read...his book[s] with your best friend." -- The Dallas Morning News

By now I will have come across to many people as a fan of Stanley Coren's writing. This man just makes so much sense in what he says. He continually challenges you to rethink some of the concepts that you have formed with regards to dogs & their behavior in varying circumstances & come out the other side of your experience with him as a far more complete person in your handling & understanding of dogs. There are many excellent writers on the behavior & training of dogs But you will never be disappointed after reading books by this man.

The title is misleading. He does not address specific questions. That's his first problem, but not his last. He throws the word "dominance" out there too often. Here's the problem. When most of us hear "dominance" we think of someone like Cesar Millan who uses it to mean control. When Dr. Coren uses it, he's not really talking about the same kind of control as Millan. If you don't know his work or have never seen his shows, you can easily misunderstand him. He's using it to mean assertiveness. An assertive dog is not looking to take over your life, much less the world. He talks a great deal about personality testing only to tell you that there are not truly reliable tests out there. I'm not sure why he spend 15 pages describing them.

a must read

This was a fun and rather fascinating study of dogs. I especially enjoyed the personality quiz that was included in the book. The anecdotes ranged from amusing to heart-breaking. The chapter on heroic dogs especially stood out. I thought it was a good balance between science and entertainment. There was a good deal on the domestication of dogs, which I think is interesting, though Coren did not mention co-evolution, which I found to be rather surprising. Still, I really enjoyed this!

This book was a very interesting and informative read. Although it was not what I expected, I was pleasantly pleased with what I did get from the book. The book deals with how and why dogs came to be, over evolution, the great companions they are now. Along with a general guidelines of what personality to expect from a breed. However it does go into detail of how it is genetics more than breed that can play huge impact on a dogs personality. There is also a heartbreaking section about dogs used in illegal fighting, as well as inspiring tales of heroic dogs. I think this book is a good read for the anyone who just loves dogs and wants to understand more about them.

Interesting in parts, but it didn't live up to the title. I found it to be more of an exploration of how dogs became domesticated over thousands of years, and the ways in which they differ from their wild brethren. There were some good insights, but overall I felt it was too "clinical", for lack of a better word. I much preferred the author's How To Speak Dog.

I read this book because it was mentioned favorably by Cesar Milan in his books. However, this book is not nearly as readable or informative as Milan's books so if you prefer simplicity and direct information rather than high handed, lofty academic writing, you will not like this book. Mr. Coren first of all, talks down to his audience and treats dogs more like scientific experiments than beloved pets and companions. A typical sentence by Coren may start out like this "John Deefledorph, professor of psycopsychologyd boo-bahness at the University of the Grand Poobah and author of the Book "His Grandness Load of BS" and . . . . " On and on like that. It takes a paragraph sometimes for Coren to get to the part where the grand pooh bah conducted a study of some sort. I've always wondered why academics rely on studies to the exclusion of plain common sense. Guys like this will cite to a study before they go the bathroom. Moreover, Coren has a very high handed arrogant and smug writing style I don't particularly care for. In fact, I got little from this book except a lot of information about a lot of studies and truthfully, it was upsetting reading about heartless studies

done on dogs by the military. If you are a fan of tedious academic writing and studies and clinical writing that lacks warmth and insight, you will like this book. I myself got nothing out of it and that is purely my fault I'm sure. Coren keeps himself and his subject at a distance and lacks a real warmth both towards dogs and dog owners. This is a soulless book on a soulful subject.

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