

## Dogs cry for joy after reuniting with owners

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There is a saying in English that says a dog is a man's (and woman's) best friend. Dogs and humans have shared close and loving relationships for thousands of years. Scientists believe the bond between

humans and dogs is deeper than we thought. The scientists discovered that dogs cry tears of joy when they see their owners after a period of absence. The scientists conducted a small-scale study on 22 dogs. They tested the behaviour of the dogs. In particular, they looked at how the dogs reacted when they were reunited with their owners and with other people they had daily contact with. The scientists said that when the dogs saw their owners, they cried.

The researchers, from Azabu University and Jichi Medical University, put strips of paper under the dogs' eyes. They then checked to see if, and when, the dogs cried. The scientists found that when the humans and dogs were reunited after five to seven hours of separation, the dogs shed tears. Researcher Takefumi Kikusui said: "We had never heard of the discovery that animals shed tears in joyful situations, such as reuniting with their owners." He added: "Their tears might play a role in the deepening of mutual relationships." He believes the tears may make humans love their dogs more. He said: "It's possible that dogs who show teary eyes during human interaction would be cared for more."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com) / [salon.com](http://salon.com)

### Writing

The dog-human relationship is the best among all animals. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

a saying / dog / man / woman / relationship / bond / tears of joy / cry / reunited / researchers / paper / dogs' eyes / separation / discovery / love / joyful / interaction

### True / False

- 1) An English saying says cats are man's best friends. T / F
- 2) Dogs and humans have had a relationship for millions of years. T / F
- 3) Scientists conducted a small study involving just 22 dogs. T / F
- 4) Dogs cried when they saw other people they met every day. T / F
- 5) Researchers put paper under the dogs' eyes to know if they cried. T / F
- 6) Dogs cried upon their owner's return even after a five-hour absence. T / F
- 7) A researcher had heard of many dogs crying about many things. T / F
- 8) Dogs' tears might make the human-dog bond stronger. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>friend</b>        | a. strips       |
| 2. <b>relationships</b> | b. found        |
| 3. <b>discovered</b>    | c. behaved      |
| 4. <b>period</b>        | d. looked after |
| 5. <b>reacted</b>       | e. companion    |
| 6. <b>pieces</b>        | f. happy        |
| 7. <b>checked</b>       | g. part         |
| 8. <b>joyful</b>        | h. links        |
| 9. <b>role</b>          | i. time         |
| 10. <b>cared for</b>    | j. monitored    |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are the good things about dogs as pets?
- c) What other animals might cry?
- d) Why do we cry?
- e) What joyful situations have you experienced recently?
- f) What do you think of dogs' eyes?
- g) Which make the best pets, dogs or cats?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

1. There is a saying
  2. shared close and loving
  3. the bond between humans and dogs
  4. see their owners after a
  5. they looked at how the dogs
  6. put strips of paper under
  7. reunited after five to seven hours
  8. animals shed tears
  9. dogs who show
  10. human
- a. is deeper
  - b. in joyful situations
  - c. the dogs' eyes
  - d. relationships
  - e. interaction
  - f. reacted
  - g. in English
  - h. teary eyes
  - i. period of absence
  - j. of separation

## Discussion – Student B

- a) Is a dog a man's best friend?
- b) What do you think of dogs?
- c) Which is the best word, pet or companion?
- d) Why do dogs and humans have such close relationships?
- e) What are the good things about dogs as pets?
- f) Do you think dogs cry tears of joy?
- g) Have you ever cried tears of joy?
- h) What makes you cry?

## Spelling

1. There is a ayisng in English
2. close and loving tenplaisiorh
3. after a period of ecsbnea
4. The scientists cnotucded a small-scale study
5. the aorhbieu of the dogs
6. people they had daily ttncoca with
7. istsrp of paper
8. five to seven hours of patsraneoi
9. We had never heard of the vdecoisyr
10. animals shed tears in uyfjlo situations
11. tears might play a rloe
12. during human riroatcinent

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. i	5. c
6. a	7. j	8. f	9. g	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Dog

You think a dog is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a goldfish, a hamster or a horse.

### Role B – Goldfish

You think a goldfish is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a dog, a hamster or a horse.

### Role C – Hamster

You think a hamster is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a goldfish, a dog or a horse.

### Role D – Horse

You think a horse is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a goldfish, a hamster or a dog.

## Speaking – Pet

Rank these with your partner. Put the best pet at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Cat
- Snake
- Hamster
- Elephant
- Dog
- Horse
- Goldfish
- Rabbit

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 F	5 T	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.