

Right or Left-pawed?

Celebrate National Dog Day with this pooch approved experiment!



Materials:

- A canine companion
- Dog toy with treat holder
- Dog treats

Get ready to experiment!

1. Ask permission from your grown up to conduct a fun experiment on your dog.
2. Load up your pooch's favorite toy with a small treat and keep several more on hand.
 - **Hint:** Trainer treats work well for activities like this because they are small. This will help keep your dog's attention for longer and make sure that your dog doesn't get a tummy ache from too many treats!

Release the hound!

1. Call your dog's attention.
2. Place the treat filled toy directly in front of your dog. This can be on the ground or elevated in your hand.
3. Observe which paw your dog uses to reach for the toy.
4. Allow your dog to eat the treat and reset the experiment.
 - **Hint:** You may want to grab a piece of paper and write down when hand your dog used to reach for the toy.
5. Repeat the experiment until your dog loses interest.

Analyze findings.

Were you able to establish a pattern? Did your dog choose to reach for the toy more often with right paw or the left paw?

Science Connection:

Just like humans, dogs have a dominate side for completing tasks. This means that some dogs favor their right paw while others favor their left. You can take this experiment further by testing more pets and other types of dog breeds.

Let's science



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