
Delilah Speaks

I know that humans believe dog behavior can be mind-boggling, but really, you humans are often totally baffling to dogs. One day a dog jumps up on you to say hello, and you hug him and greet him with a smile. The next day the dog greets you with a jump and is met with screams and punishment over a \$500 designer something or other. Come on people---make up your minds!

Dogs look at life from a different perspective than humans, and that's where the trouble begins. Most dogs are willing to learn the rules of the human world, but people have to show us what they are and the benefits to following them. Otherwise, we will just do what dogs do. It's not misbehaving in our minds; it's just responding to the environment around us and satisfying our needs. If a dog eats a shoe while you are gone, it doesn't mean he's angry; it means he missed you and this shoe reminded him of you, or simply...he was bored. If a dog pees on your bed after you pack your bags for a trip, it doesn't mean she's getting even; it means that she's nervous about all the activity. Your bed smells like you, and it is comforting. Peeing relieves some of the nervous tension. There's no revenge involved (that's a human quality I'll never understand), only an attempt to calm down in an uncomfortable situation.

The following pages are not filled with learning theory. (I don't really understand what all that means anyway, but I hear there are lots of books that explain it.) What this book does cover is a look at how dogs view the world and simple guidelines to help change both human (yes, humans need to change their behavior too) and animal behavior in order to enhance the relationship between dogs and people.

I've allowed Cheryl, since she understand how you humans think better than me, to have the last word in each chapter where she adds her notes. I didn't worry whether using "he" or "she" was appropriate and mixed things up to include both. Please remember as you read this book that I don't have a strong command of the English language, so if you don't agree with something I've written, call Cheryl, not me. She must have gotten something wrong in the translation.

Delilah