

# HAPPENINGS AROUND THE HOUSE

## NEWS FROM HOYTT OWNERS AND HOUSE OF HOYTT

FEBRUARY 2019

ISSUE #35

Baby, it's cold outside across most of the U.S. and elsewhere. Winter weather presents lots of challenges, not the least of which for pet parents is figuring out how cold is too cold to have their dog outside. Here's a good general guideline to keep in mind:

- Below 45 degrees F, dogs who don't love the cold start to feel uncomfortable
- Below 32 degrees F, small breeds, thin-coated dogs, and old, young and sick dogs should be very carefully monitored for signs of discomfort
- Below 20 degrees F, hypothermia and frostbite are a risk for **all dogs**

Additional things to think about:

- Is the sun shining brightly or is there a cloud cover? Overcast days feel colder than sunny days, and in addition, there's no opportunity for dark-coated dogs to absorb sunshine to help retain body heat.
- Is it raining or snowing? Any sort of dampness that saturates your dog's coat can quickly drop his body temperature even when it's not terribly cold out.
- How about wind chill? Windy days can make the temperature feel much colder than the number on the thermostat. In addition, breezy conditions inhibit the ability of your dog's coat to insulate and protect him from the cold.
- What will you and your dog be doing outdoors? Your dog's activity level makes a big difference in how quickly he gets cold. If he's **running** or **playing vigorously**, he's generating a good deal of body heat that will protect him from getting cold quickly.

# GOT SNOW??



**Left: Ruby in Michigan**

**Below: Thor in Ohio**







**Right: Martina in Kentucky**

**Below: Wilbur in California**



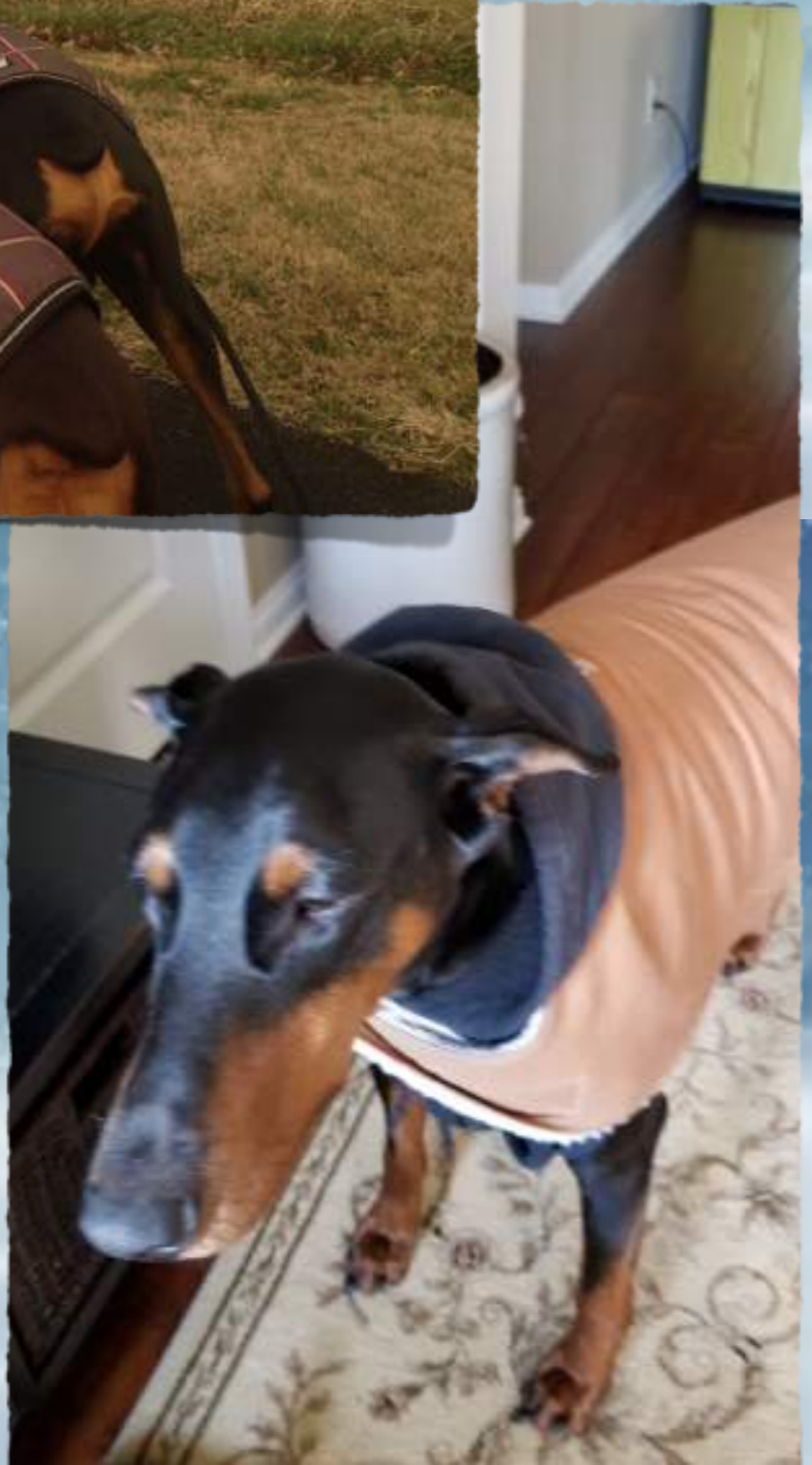




**Left: Electra & Clarke in TN**

**Below: Diesel in Indiana**

**BUNDLE UP!**





# **SNUGGLING UP FOR A LONG WINTERS NAP ~**



**Left: Paladin finds the warmest spot in the house...  
Right: Housemate Silhouette gets the couch**



**Left: Brick is fast asleep in Texas  
Right: Beau in Illinois needs a comforter to keep warm**





# NO SNOW HERE.....



**JOKER IN FLORIDA ENJOYS  
BOATING ALL YEAR ROUND**







**REAGAN AND CAJUN ABOVE  
SPORTING THEIR CHRISTMAS  
COLLARS IN FLORIDA ~**

**RIGHT: CAJUN REQUESTING  
SOME LOVE FROM HIS MOM**





DID YOU SAY "WALK"?

DID YOU SAY IT  
WAS TIME TO EAT?



## Dogs Listen Not Only to What We Say, but How We Say It

A 2016 study concluded that our four-legged friends are listening not only to what we say, but also how we say it. When you **praise your dog**, her brain's reward center perks up if your words match your tone of voice. These findings suggest the ability to process words evolved much earlier than was originally thought. According to Phys.org:

*"It shows that if an environment is rich in speech, as is the case of family dogs, word meaning representations can arise in the brain, even in a non-primate mammal that is not able to speak."*

Attila Andics, Ph.D. of Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest and lead researcher of the study, published in the journal Science, explains:

*"During speech processing, there is a well-known distribution of labor in the human brain. It is mainly the left hemisphere's job to process word meaning, and the right hemisphere's job to process intonation."*

*The **human brain** not only separately analyzes what we say and how we say it, but also integrates the two types of information, to arrive at a unified meaning. Our findings suggest that **dogs can also do all that, and they use very similar brain mechanisms.**"*

## Dogs Also Tune Into Our Posture, Gestures and Eye Contact

Despite your dog's ability to understand some of the words you say, there may be more effective ways to communicate with her, such as visually. Your posture, gestures and eye contact can speak volumes, and your dog pays attention to these cues closely. In fact, dogs can follow our gaze much like a 6-month-old infant, but only if we convey the intention of communication, which suggests they're quite tuned into our communicative signals.

There are many theories as to why and how dogs developed such strong responsiveness to human gestures. It could be simply that they spend more time around humans than other species, or that they quickly learned paying close attention might get them more rewards (like food). As reported in the journal Behavioral Processes:

*"Dogs are more skillful than a host of other species at tasks which require they respond to human communicative gestures in order to locate hidden food. "*



**One possibility is that dogs simply have more opportunity than other species to learn to be responsive to human social cues. A different analysis suggests that the domestication process provided an opening for dogs to apply general cognitive problem-solving skills to a novel social niche.**

**Some researchers go beyond this account and propose that dogs' co-evolution with humans equipped them with a theory of mind for social exchanges.**

**Finally, a more prudent approach suggests that sensitivity to the behaviors of both humans and conspecifics would be particularly advantageous for a social scavenger like the dog. A predisposition to attend to human actions allows for rapid early learning of the association between gestures and the availability of food.”**

### **How Does Your Dog Communicate With You?**

**While we use speech as a primary form of communicating, your dog may “talk” to you using different forms of communication, such as tail movements. Dogs display [submission](#) by tucking their tails and lying on their backs. They display dominance by staring, raising their fur and baring their teeth.**

**Further, dogs tend to wag their tails to the right side when they encounter something pleasant (like their owners). When they see something threatening, for example a strange dog exhibiting dominant behaviors, they wag more to the left side.**

**Certain species of canines also use their eyes to communicate, and the fact that your dog will make direct eye contact with you may be one important feature that distinguishes him from wild dogs, or wolves.**

### **HOYTT OWNERS KNOW IT'S ALL IN THE EYES ~**





**Little Joe in Indiana  
posing in his favorite  
position on the bed**



**Royce who goes  
to work with dad,  
has his own job  
once he gets there.**

**Surprisingly, no  
complaints are  
ever filed**







**LEFT: "JJ" FROM INDIANA  
POSES WHILE OUT FOR A  
WALK**

**BELOW: "BRICK" IN  
TEXAS  
AT THE PARK WITH A  
FEW FRIENDS**





# SHOW DOG



**“TANK” Formally  
Hoytts Big Man in  
Town BN CGC and  
Noel  
completed his Grand  
Victor Program at  
Camp Hoytt and he is  
now with his family  
in Montana**



**“I’ll take that  
ribbon thank you”**





# RECENTLY PLACED

**"GRACEE ROSE" MET  
HER NEW MOM AND  
DAD AT CAMP HOYTT,  
THEN HEADED OFF TO  
ARIZONA TO LIVE**







# RECENTLY PLACED

**"Dutch"**  
completed his  
Custom Young  
Adult Program  
and headed off to  
Hawaii with his  
new family







"KISS"

Happy Valentines Day

Photos and stories to share? Please email me ~

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