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New research shows that the anatomy of a dog's face has changed over thousands of years specifically to communicate better with us. The dynamic duo of dogs and humans dates back more than 33,000 years when dogs were first domesticated. And it turned out to be a wonderful interspecies relationship. Through selection during domestication, dogs have developed behavioral adaptations that have led to a unique ability to read and use human companionship in a way that other animals cannot. Dogs are more adept at using human communicative cues, like pointing gestures or direction of sight, even than the closest living relative of a human chimpanzee, as well as than their own next living relatives, wolves, or other domesticated species, write the authors of a new study looking at the evolution of puppy dog eyes, of all things. But as innocent (or insidious) as they may seem, there is a lot to learn about the great eye looks that humanity's best friend has mastered so well. We hypothesize that dogs with expressive eyebrows had the advantage of choice and that the dog's puppy eyes are the result of selection based on people's preferences, the study notes. The study includes the first detailed analysis looking at differences in anatomy and behavior between dogs and wolves. They concluded that the facial musculature of both species was similar, except for the eyes: Dogs have a small muscle that allows them to intensely lift an inner eyebrow, which wolves do not. Or, as the University of Portsmouth says, dogs have developed new muscles around the eyes to communicate better with humans. The musculature of the face in the wolf (*C. lupus*) and the dog (*C. familiaris*) with differences in anatomy are highlighted in red. Image courtesy of Tim D. Smith (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK)CC BY 4.0 The authors suggest that this special ability of puppy-dog-eyes basically causes people to melt in a puddle. Okay, not exactly their words. But they suggest that appearance causes an emotional reaction in humans because it makes the eyes of dogs appear larger, more baby-like, and also resembles the movement people produce when they are sad. (It's almost like they take lessons from the big, irresistible eyes of giant pandas.) Further backing up the hypothesis is another recent study showing that dogs seem to produce significantly more AU101 internal eyebrow enhancement when a person looks at them. Evidence is conclusive that dogs have developed muscles to raise the inner eyebrow after they have been domesticated by wolves, said the leader of the current study, Dr Julian Kaminsky, a comparative psychologist at the University of Portsmouth, Kaminsky. The findings suggest that expressive eyebrows in dogs may be the result of unconscious preference of people who influenced choice during domestication. When dogs make a movement, it seems to cause a strong desire in humans to about them, she added. This will give dogs that move their eyebrows more, a choice of choice Over others and strengthen the dog eye puppy trait for future generations. Co-author Anne Burrows, an anatomist at Dukesne University in Pittsburgh, said this anatomical difference between wolves and dogs occurred relatively quickly. This is a striking difference for species separated only 33,000 years ago, and we believe that surprisingly rapid facial muscle changes can be directly related to dogs' enhanced social interaction with humans. Co-author Rui Diogo agreed: I must admit that I was surprised to see the results myself, because the rough anatomy of the muscles tends to change very slowly in evolution, and it happened very quickly, indeed, in just a few tens of thousands of years. In concluding that domestication transformed the facial anatomy of dog muscles specifically for facial communication with humans in as little as 33,000 years, the study leaves many for dog lovers among us to wonder. What evolutionary changes can this unique partnership make in another 33,000 years? And can we please talk to dogs someday? All research (and video clips of wolves vs. dogs!) can be seen in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). Babies understand this early on. They see a toy, point at it and look at mom or dad. Being fast learners, parents pick up the game and give it to a smart kid who quickly figured out how to get what she wants. Pointing is what is known as a reference gesture. Its purpose is to draw attention to something or someone in the hope of getting a concrete answer. Many researchers have focused on these reference gestures with humans and with primates, but a new study looks at how our dog friends fit into this equation. Researchers from the University of Salford in the UK observed 37 dogs using their owners acting as civilian scientists. Owners were asked to record their dogs performing everyday acts of communication with them for several weeks. It was things like asking for food, a toy or that the door would be open. They recorded 242 gesaures of communication and the researchers analyzed the footage, encoding it according to the dog's intended purpose, how often the dog used the gesture and whether he was successful in getting the dog that he wanted. The researchers identified 47 unique gestures and then distilled those down to 19 true examples of referential gesturing. These examples have been used more than 1000 times in videos of 37 dogs. Their work was published in the journal Animal Cognition. The most common request dogs make for pets and scratches. InLite Studio/Shutterstock Looking at what dogs were trying to communicate, it wasn't as easy as saying these 19 gestures meant these 19 things. But the study is compelling. Here are some of the most interesting takeaways: What they really want: The four most used (and most successful) gestures were to caress, food and drinks to make toy and go outside. It's in the eyes: With all the dogs, the most common gestures involved eye contact. They involved either a straight look (look) or a glance alternating (looking back and forth from the owner to the object of his desire). Each dog is different: Just like humans, some dogs have a greater vocabulary than others. As dog trainer and writer Linda Case explains about the study, dogs vary greatly in the number and type of gestures they used to communicate. It was not uncommon for a dog to use several different gestures (look, turn head, pawing, barking) for one purpose and switch to a new gesture if the first was not successful. Interestingly, dogs that have lived with more than one person tend to use a larger repertoire of gestures, perhaps by developing individual ways of communicating with each person. And yes, say the researchers, the dog's ability to communicate with us in all these ways is quite impressive. They write: The ability to successfully communicate between species is theoretically more cognitively complex than intra-specific communication because it requires a person to adjust their behavior so that other species are able to understand and respond to them correctly. human communication in society 5th edition pdf free

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