

Pet Peeves - Top 10 things that humans do that really annoy dogs

By Laura Tyler

This article is a bit of a “tongue in cheek” approach as to how our dogs might perceive some of our interactions with them. My dog Skippy reminded me that the top 10 would equal 7 in dog years so, I’ve limited the count. She sometimes watches me and I do wonder what she’s thinking. So, here are some things to consider spoken by “*the dog.*”

1. My human wonders why I can’t sit still in the back of the black pickup truck when the temperature is over 85 degrees. *Come on back here and sit for an hour and find out!*
2. My human wonders why I won’t come when he calls! It always means it’s time to go home or I shouldn’t be sniffing where the squirrel peed. The worst part is when I look at him to say just a minute; he pulls on my collar and makes me go home. *Would you like coming to someone that deranged?*
3. My human takes me to the dog park. I hate the dog park! I get chased around and bullied the whole time I’m there! When I go over and stand by my human he gets mad and walks away! He tells me to go play! *HELLO!!! I’m not a chew toy!!!*
4. My human fills up the food bowl every few days. Same food each and every day! When she finally leaves something that smells really yummy on the counter, I get yelled at for even suggesting that we share! *If you eat nothing but cheerios for a full year I’ll bet the food in my dish might be tempting.*
5. My human doesn’t realize how off balance that leash makes it when straddling a bush for a good pee. *Loosen up will ya? How would you like to have a rope tied around your neck while doing your business? I need one of those magic doors that close and give me my alone time.*
6. My human only looks out for herself! I hate that leash! What happened to togetherness? *You get to stop whenever you want. When I want a break???? NOOOOO! No time for the dog!*
7. My human talks like a broken record! Sit, sit, sit, come, come, come, down, down, down. *Will you please give me time to think?*

If you cogitate on this a bit, there is an element of truth to each of these scenarios. If we take the time to consider our relationship from our dogs’ perspective it might just change how we train and treat them.

An Ethological perspective would consider how a given animal operates in their natural habitat, and we would consider evolutionary explanations for behavior. If we think about the immense environmental adaptation required to cope in a human habitat, and begin to see life through the dog’s eye, it’s a wonder they live with us at all! For their continued existence we provide a place to stay, things to do, and meals to eat. We should also bridge the gap in understanding by learning more about who they are.

If your dog has other pet peeves feel free to send them to me at:
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