

Scientists Say Dogs May Also Cry Tears of Joy

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Link /lɪŋk/ (noun) a relationship or connection between two or more people or things
Example: The scientist has uncovered the missing link in Darwin's theory of evolution.
2. Tear /tɪr/ (noun) a drop of liquid produced in a person's eyes when they cry
Example: She cried a tear and he wiped it dry.
3. Reunite /ˌriːjuːˈnaɪ/ (verb) to come or bring together after being separated for a long time
Example: The soldier was reunited with his family after a long time of separation.
4. Significant /sɪɡˈnɪfəkənt/ (adjective) important or large enough to be noticed or have an effect
Example: The couple is marking a significant event in their lives.
5. Trust /trʌst/ (noun) the belief that someone or something is truthful, reliable, etc.
Example: It is hard to regain trust once it's lost.
6. Bonding /ˈbɒːndɪŋ/ (noun) the forming of a relationship with someone based on shared feelings, interests, etc.
Example: Enjoy bonding time with your family!



A new study says that if you find your dog crying when you come home, it might be tears of joy. No previous research has looked at the link between positive feelings and tears in dogs, according to researchers from three Japanese universities. To try to understand more about this, the team put a special piece of paper under dogs' eyes while they were at home with their owners, and again within the first five minutes of being reunited with their owners after being away from them for over five hours.

They then checked how many millimeters of the paper had become wet from tears. The results, reported in *Current Biology*, showed that the dogs produced many more tears when they were reunited with their owners than when they were at home with them. No significant increase was seen when the dogs were reunited with people they knew but who weren't their owners.

Previous research has also shown that dogs produce more oxytocin when reunited with their owners.

Oxytocin is often called the "love hormone" because our bodies produce it when we are falling in love, and it has been linked to feelings of trust and even bonding between mothers and their children. The researchers found that putting oxytocin into dogs' eyes increased tear production — something that didn't happen when a different liquid was used. According to the researchers, the first test shows that dogs cry when they are reunited with their owners, and the second suggests that this process is helped by the "love hormone" oxytocin.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you find it surprising that dogs may cry tears of joy?
2. What are the friendliest dogs you've met?
3. Who are the biggest dog lovers you know?
4. Do you know anyone who dislikes dogs?
5. Are there any common pets that you wouldn't want to own?