

Cats are as Intelligent as Dogs, Researchers Say

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. certain /'sɜːtn/ some, but not very much.
Example: He raised certain personal problems with me.
2. recall /rə'kɒl/ bring (a fact, event, or situation) back into one's mind; remember.
Example: I can still vaguely recall him saying that he will attend the party.
3. memory /'mem(ə)rē/ the faculty by which the mind stores and remembers information.
Example: My friend has a great memory for names but not faces.
4. introspective /,intrə'spektiv/ examining and considering your own ideas, thoughts, and feelings, instead of talking to other people about them
Example: She is famous for her introspective songs about failed relationships.
5. consciousness /'kən(t)ʃəsnəs/ the state of being awake and aware of one's surroundings.
Example: To lose consciousness is quite dangerous.



People usually think dogs are more intelligent than cats. Researchers questioned this idea. They found cats were as smart as dogs at **certain** memory tests.

Cat lovers have always known this. They looked at how well 49 cats could **recall** a past event. This is called episodic **memory**. The cats ate from different bowls. The team found that after a 15-minute break, the cats could recall what bowl they had eaten from.

The scientists also said that cats were as good as dogs on a whole variety of mental tests, including responding to the gestures, facial expressions and emotions of humans. A researcher told reporters that she believed cats think about past events similar to the way humans do.

She said: "They may enjoy actively recalling memories of their experience, like humans." She said episodic memory is a form of **introspective** or deeper thinking. The research may suggest a type of **consciousness** in cats. Understanding cats more will help to establish better cat-human relationships.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you think cats are more intelligent than dogs? Why or why not?
2. In what ways are cats and dogs intelligent?
3. How good is your memory?
4. What can you do to improve your memory?
5. What past events do you like recalling?