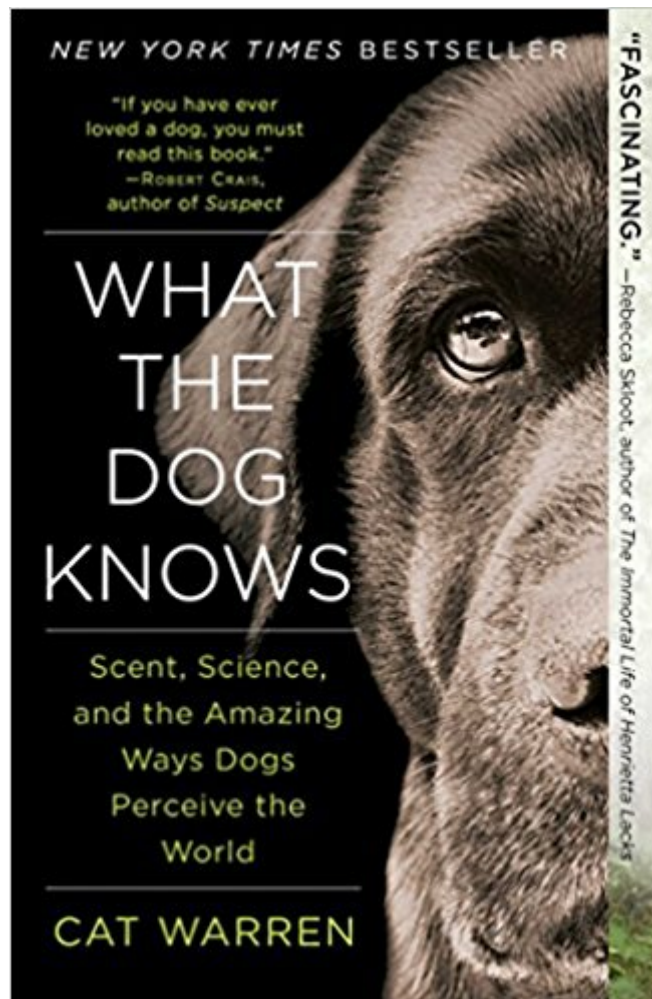


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What The Dog Knows: Scent, Science, And The Amazing Ways Dogs Perceive The World



Synopsis

A firsthand exploration of the extraordinary abilities and surprising, sometimes life-saving talents of working dogs—pups who can sniff out drugs, find explosives, even locate the dead—as told through the experiences of a journalist and her intrepid canine companion, which The New York Times calls “a fascinating, deeply reported journey into the amazing things dogs can do with their noses.” There are thousands of working dogs all over the US and beyond with incredible abilities—they can find missing people, detect drugs and bombs, pinpoint unmarked graves of Civil War soldiers, or even find drowning victims more than two hundred feet below the surface of a lake. These abilities may seem magical or mysterious, but author Cat Warren shows the science, the rigorous training, and the skilled handling that underlie these creatures’ amazing abilities. Cat Warren is a university professor and journalist who had tried everything she could think of to harness her dog Solo’s boundless energy and enthusiasm until a behavior coach suggested she try training him to be a working dog. What started out as a hobby soon became a calling, as Warren was introduced to the hidden universe of dogs who do this essential work and the handlers who train them. Her dog Solo has a fine nose and knows how to use it, but he’s only one of many astounding dogs in a varied field. Warren interviews cognitive psychologists, historians, medical examiners, epidemiologists, and forensic anthropologists, as well as the breeders, trainers, and handlers who work with and rely on these intelligent and adaptable animals daily. Along the way, Warren discovers story after story that prove the capabilities—as well as the very real limits—of working dogs and their human partners. Clear-eyed and unsentimental, Warren explains why our partnership with working dogs is woven into the fabric of society, and why we keep finding new uses for the wonderful noses of our four-legged friends.

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Customer Reviews

What a wonderful book! Cat Warren has extensively researched working dogs, cadaver dogs in particular, and interviewed a large number of active and retired dog handlers. Some included sections are on the history of the body dog, training with police K9 units, using cadaver dogs to find military dead in war zones, the difficulties of searching over water versus land, and using cadaver dogs for archeological body searches. Among all this Cat threads in her own experience with finding a job for a difficult singleton German shepherd puppy, deciding on cadaver dog work with no previous experience, ongoing training for both her and the dog, and graduating to active searches - all as a volunteer. Solo, for his part, does all this for the joy of working, the thrill of finding the scent, and the ecstasy of winning the prize tug toy. All this makes for very captivating reading - even more so if you are at all interested in dog training. Having had 6 German shepherds myself with 4 in the house at the moment (snoozing around the living room after a hike), I understand that keeping an intelligent, strong, resourceful dog mentally and physically busy is very necessary. Cat apparently has the ability to do that as well as research thoroughly and write engagingly and with humor. It was a pleasure to read her well written book.

I just read this book for the third time and once again found myself totally rapt, unable to put it down. This is the best of both worlds, a memoir that reads like a novel. All my life I've loved dogs from afar--I'm at heart a cat person--but Warren's powerfully rendered tale of how an impossible puppy with a bad attitude becomes a gifted working dog has me rethinking my pet stance. WHAT THE DOG KNOWS is a great Christmas gift for dog lovers, for anyone interested in forensics, for those working in law enforcement, and for animal enthusiasts in general. I give it my highest recommendation.

As if I needed another reason to love dogs. Cat gave me, personally, all new rationale for why these noble creatures deserve our respect, and she shores it up with exceptionally good research and a dry, candid, and thoroughly enjoyable wit. This book seems to have it all, or at least more than lots of other dog-centric books. The expert historical perspective she craftily wove into her own experiences successfully (and early on, not so successfully) training working dogs left us with memorable explanations for why these creatures do what they do, why they're so good at it, and our

role in their success. And most refreshingly, Cat doesn't pull punches; when I may have expected more cloying prose, Cat hits us, front and center with tender but honest writing you often don't find in this genre. No sugar coating here. That was nice. If you're ready for something different, something that combines good science with unique academic prowess and a fresh and unexpected voice, this one's for you.

This is probably the most enjoyable and well written book having to do with the Working Dog...well, EVER. Not written as an instruction book, the story flows from the difficult adjustments that the author had with a high drive puppy, to a very skilled Cadaver Recovery team. This is a wholly unique approach to learning about, and understanding how the working dog gets the most difficult job done well. This book will never grow dusty on a book shelf in my library. The insights, low-spots' and revelations will keep it very readable for a long, long time!!! [...]

Love this book! The style is similar to Mary Roach's *Stiff*, in that it is a memoir filled with research, history, and science. Warren really did her research for this book; I learned so much about the history of dogs and their place in our workforce. Her personal part in this long history is touching. A wonderful read. I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

This book is not just for someone who loves dogs. I love my dog and, for the most part, I like other people's dogs. But this book is about more than dogs. It's a personal narrative that shows the dedication required for people who choose this path with their dog. It's also a book for people who love to learn about things outside of their everyday. Cat does a artful job of combining her personal narrative of raising and training a cadaver dog with tales of professionals, accounts of history and research on the future of the field of cadaver work. I greatly enjoyed walking alongside Cat and Solo's journey as they went from classic owner-puppy struggles to finding purpose, trust and love. A non-fiction book on an unlikely subject with the sense of story and compelling characters of fiction. A fascinating read!

Dogs give unconditional love and "see" the world with their sniffers. Cat Warren is a scientific journalism teacher who practices what she teaches. This book is honest, humble, and humorous by not overstating what we know of "What the Dog Knows." For example, Canines involved in HRD (human remains detection) must distinguish between 483 or more aromatic compounds released by the chronicle of decay-- And identify what is uniquely human from that of other mammals. The Dog

Knows but scientists don't yet. Appeals to dog lovers, dog trainers, scientists, and anyone who loves to learn --especially to know "What we don't know."

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