**Each excerpt below is color-coded for your convenience:**

**inspiring excerpts, interesting excerpts, and funny excerpts!**

**A Dog’s World**

**Good week for: Australian dogs, whose owners can now be fined up to $2,700 if they don't walk their pets at least once a day. "For the first time under law we are recognizing the science that animals are sentient, and feel emotion and pain," said government minister Chris Steel. *(The Week magazine, October 11, 2019)***

**You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, “Wow, you’re right! I never would’ve thought of that.” *(Dave Barry, humorist)***

**A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down. *(Robert Benchley, humorist)***

**Don't let the same dog bite you twice. *(Chuck Berry)***

**We give them the love we can spare, the time we can spare. In return dogs have given us their absolute all. It is without a doubt the best deal man has ever made. *(Roger Caras, in A Celebration of Dogs)***

**Charlie Brown: “Here’s a theological question for you. Does it bother you that the Bible doesn’t speak very highly of dogs?” Snoopy: “Sure, it bothers me, but I just turn the other muzzle!” *(Charles Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself. *(Josh Billings)***

**Did you ever notice when you blow in a dog's face it gets mad at you? But when you take a dog in a car, it sticks its head out the window. *(Steve Bluestone)***

**Are dogs the braniest pets? Which are smarter, cats or dogs? The latest scientific contribution to that perennial debate puts dogs on top, says USA Today. A team of evolutionary biologists at Oxford University analyzed the evolving brain size of some 500 mammalian species, living and fossilized, going back 60 million years. They found the greatest increases in animals that live in social groups; monkeys saw the biggest gains, followed by horses, dolphins, camels, and dogs. The brain size of more solitary animals, including cats and rhinos, increased less. Study co-author Robin Dunbar says social animals “needed to think more” in order to better manage complex interactions with peers. “Even animals that have contact with humans, like cats, have much smaller brains than dogs and horses because of their lack of sociality,” Dunbar says. That hardly proves that dogs are smarter than cats, veterinarian Pete Wedderburn tells the London Telegraph. Measured as a fraction of body weight, cats’ brains are actually larger than those of dogs, with almost twice as many neurons. Dogs may be better at tasks assigned by humans, he says but “no self-respecting cat should be expected to carry out random human demands.” *(The Week magazine, December 10, 2010)***

**Charlie Brown: “When Santa Claus brings me the dog, will he leave it on the front porch or in the back yard? He wouldn’t drop it down the chimney would he?” Lucy: “There’s something I sort of feel I should tell you.” Charlie Brown: “Maybe he’ll just leave a gift certificate.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**A bulldog puppy who bit his owner's big toe "to the bone" may have saved the man from having his leg amputated. David Lindsay, a retired builder in England, was napping on the sofa when pup Harley started chewing on his big toe, which he noticed only when his wife's screams woke him. Doctors who treated him at the hospital said his foot had gone numb and blue due to blocked arteries that could have forced an amputation if it had gone untreated. "You've got to laugh about it," said Lindsay. "He's done me a favor." *(The Week magazine, May 5, 2023)***

**The great pleasure of a dog is that you can make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too. *(Samuel Butler)***

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**One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you’re feeling blue is that he doesn’t try to find out why. *(National Enquirer)***

**Some dogs can be trained to predict an epileptic seizure in their owners. Other dogs can sense low sugar levels in diabetics and warn them so that they can ingest carbohydrates to avoid passing out.(Don Voorhees, in *The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 164)***

**The child kneels on her bed and prays: “Can we ‘God bless’ dogs, too, or just people?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**Over 200 dogs came to celebrate the 100th birthday of Dr. Robert Moore, a San Jose community resident and a dog lover. Alison, Moore’s daughter, asked people through the Nextdoor app to dress their dogs in costumes and come over to celebrate the occasion. While she was expecting no more than 30 dogs, the community response moved her. Canines wore cowboy hats, tuxedos, and bow ties, while their owners brought Moore flowers and cupcakes. “Every person brought the dog up to him. It was so lovely,” Alison said. *(The Week magazine, June 30, 2023)***

**Only in America: A Massachusetts church is launching a religious service for dogs. The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas of Calvary Episcopal Church says the monthly service will help parishioners “who have a rich spiritual life as pet owners” share their experience of God with their canine companions. She said that barking and whining will be allowed during the services. “We want dogs to be dogs,” she said. *(The Week magazine, May 21, 2010)***

**Home computers are being called upon to perform many new functions, including the consumption of homework formerly eaten by the dog. *(Doug Larson)***

**If dogs could talk, perhaps we should find it as hard to get on with them as we do with people. *(Karel Capek, in Intimate Things)***

**If you think dogs can’t count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them. *(Phil Pastoret)***

**People in Nepal observe an annual Day of the Dog. They feed every stray dog in the nation. And mark each dog with a red sign on the forehead. And decorate each with a garland of flowers. The dogs are known to appreciate the food. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea. *(Robert A. Heinlein, writer)***

**What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight – it’s the size of the fight in the dog. *(Dwight D. Eisenhower)***

**When your children are teenagers, it’s important to have a dog so that someone in the house is happy to see you. *(Nora Ephron)***

**If your dog is fat, you aren’t getting enough exercise. *(Anonymous)***

**SPEAKING THEIR LANGUAGE; A man came into our grocery store and asked what kind of dog food we carried. I showed him the two brands, and he bought a few cans of the cheaper food. Almost immediately he was back – his dog didn’t like that brand. When I told him he could exchange the cans, he said, “I’d better check first to see if he’ll like the other one.” Puzzled, I watched as the man went out to his car, tapped on the window, held the can up for his dog to see, and then returned to the store. “We’re in luck,” he said, smiling. “He likes this one. I’ll take it.” *(Mrs. Jesse Holmes, in The Star)***

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**Dogs' friendly genes: It's a question that has beguiled scientists and pet owners for years: Why are dogs so innately friendly? New studies suggest the answer may lie in a mutation in doggie DNA that is also found in a rare human disease that makes people extremely friendly. The researchers believe that as dogs evolved from wolves over thousands of years, humans encouraged the proliferation of this genetic change in the dog population through breeding. Scientists from Oregon State University conducted a series of experiments with 18 dogs and 10 captive wolves, in which the animals had to solve a puzzle when they were alone, with someone they knew, or with a stranger. The wolves consistently outperformed the dogs and remained more focused on their task, whereas the dogs became distracted by people. Researchers at Princeton then pinpointed differences in two genes in the two set of animals; these same two genes have been linked to Williams-Beuren syndrome in humans, which causes overly friendly behavior. Researcher Monique Udell says Williams-Beuren delays cognitive development in humans, but works for the dogs because they have learned to get what they need from people. "The very things that make life challenging for a human," she tells The New York Times, "may make dogs successful." *(The Week magazine, August 11, 2017)***

**The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue. *(Anonymous)***

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**My goal in life is to be as good a person as my dog already thinks I am. *(Anonymous)***

**Some 500 golden retrievers and their owners met up in the Scottish Highlands last week to celebrate the birth of the first golden retriever puppy 155 years ago. The “Guisachan Golden Gathering” occurs every five years and brings together dog owners from as far away as New Zealand. The Guisachan mansion – now a ruin – was owned by Scottish businessman and politician Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks, who bred a flat-coated retriever and a tweed water spaniel to produce the first golden retriever litter. Owners frolicked with their dogs, and many grew emotional. “To see them all together was just so special,” said English dog owner Deborah Robbins. (The Week magazine, July 28, 2023)**

**A grumpy dog is a smart dog: Dogs with "grumpy" characteristics are better than their cheerier peers at learning tricks from strangers, a new study suggests. The researchers didn't categorize specific breeds as grumpy. Instead, they lumped in any of the dogs they studied that had a broad range of grumpy traits, such as being quick to bark, snapping or snarling when disturbed, and not coming when called. For the study, the researchers put a treat behind a V-shaped wire fence, so the dogs would have to move further away from the food to access it -- counterintuitive behavior for canines, who just want to charge straight ahead. "It's quite a difficult task for a dog," says study author Peter Pongracz, from Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest. Neither the short-tempered dogs nor the more agreeable pooches worked out how to reach the treat on their own, and learned equally well from their owners, reports The New York Times. But when a stranger demonstrated how to get the object, the grumpy dogs did noticeably better. "They were more attentive," says Pongracz. It's unclear what -- if anything -- is behind the link. But it suggests that dogs that are slow to warm to strangers may be good at learning from them. (*The Week magazine, May 28, 2021)***

**Good week for: Man's best friend, after a guide dog jumped onto New York City subway tracks and began licking his blind owner, who had fainted and fallen in front of an oncoming train. The two survived when they ducked down and the train passed over them. *(The Week magazine, December 27, 2013)***

**Even a dog knows the difference between being stumbled over and being kicked. *(Oliver Wendell Holmes, in The New York Sun)***

**The parents of an eight-year-old boy who was away at camp for the first time hadn’t heard from him, so they called him and were a bit disappointed to discover that he hadn’t missed them at all. “Have any of the other kids gotten homesick?” his mother asked. “Only the ones who have dogs,” replied the boy. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**BARGAIN HUNTERS: Ever consider what dogs must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul – chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we’re the greatest hunters on Earth! *(Anne Tyler, in Catholic Digest)***

**To his dog, every man is Napoleon; hence the popularity of dogs. *(Aldous Huxley)***

**If dogs could talk, perhaps we should find it as hard to get on with them as we do with people. *(Karel Capek, in Intimate Things)***

**Good week for: Job openings, with news that an anonymous U.S. billionaire couple living in Britain is looking to hire a full-time, live-in “dog nanny” at a starting salary of $127,227. The job listing says the successful applicant will combine superlative dog-pampering skills with the ability to “handle sensitive information with the utmost discretion and confidentiality.” *(The Week magazine July 7 / July 14, 2023)***

**You can keep a dog, but it is the cat who keeps people because cats find humans useful domestic animals. A dog will flatter you but you have to flatter a cat. A dog is an employee; the cat is a freelance. *(George Mikes, in How to Be Decadent)***

**Dogs laugh, but they laugh with their tails. *(Max Eastman, in Enjoyment of Laughter)***

**When dogs leap onto your bed, it’s because they adore being with you. When cats leap onto your bed, it’s because they adore your bed. *(Alisha Everett)***

**If you don't want your dog to have bad breath, do what I do: Pour a little Lavoris in the toilet. *(Jay Leno)***

**Man to neighbor: “My dog thinks I’m his best friend – which is pretty amazing, considering that I’m the one who had him fixed.” *(David Letterman)***

**Canine lie detectors: Don’t try to trick your dog – it’ll know when you’re lying. That’s the conclusion of a new study of doggy deception, reports New Scientist. Researchers trained 260 dogs to find food hidden in one of two covered bowls. The animals were taught to follow the suggestion of a person they’d never previously met, “the communicator,” who’d touch the food-filled bowl and tell the dog, “Look, this is very good!” Researchers then had the dogs watch as another person moved the food from the first bowl to the second, with the communicator either in the room or outside. The communicator would later recommend the now empty first bowl. Half of the dogs would follow the misleading advice if the communicator hadn’t witnessed the switch. But two-thirds ignored a communicator who’d witnessed the switch and still recommended the empty bowl; the animals instead went straight for the food. Interestingly, young children and apes did the opposite when placed in the same scenario, trusting the communicator more than what they’d seen. Researcher Ludwig Huber says the results suggest that “dogs can understand when someone is being deceitful.” *(The Week magazine, August 6, 2021)***

**Life is like a dog-sled team. If you ain’t the lead dog, the scenery never changes. *(Lewis Grizzard)***

**A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog. *(Jack London)***

**Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend; inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read. *(Groucho Marx)***

**Nobody can fully understand the meaning of love unless he's owned a dog. He can show you more honest affection with a flick of his tail than a man can gather through a lifetime of handshakes. *(Gene Hill, in Tears and Laughter)***

**No symphony orchestra ever played music like a two-year-old girl laughing with a puppy. *(Bern Williams, in National Enquirer)***

**Door: What a dog is perpetually on the wrong side of. *(Ogden Nash)***

**Dogs are more likely to have a nervous breakdown than any other non-human animal. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 65)***

**Ode to My Four-Legged Friend: A four-legged friend accepts you just the way you are. Wags his tail as you get out of the car. Protects you all that he can. Often shakes his paw in your hand. Gives love and asks for little in return. Does tricks from you he’s learned. Will love you no matter what you do. Wants no one else but you. *(Todd A. Allen, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Only one member of our family eats all the right things, gets plenty of exercise, sleeps well and never worries. Some people call him smart. We call him "Rover." *(McNaught Syndicate)***

**There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. *(Bern Williams)***

**Good week for: Puppy love, with a new study showing that a puppy's heart rate increases by around 46 percent when it hears the words: "I love you" from its owner. *(The Week magazine, October 2, 2020)***

**An Easterner who walked into a Western saloon was amazed to see a dog sitting at a table playing poker with three men. “Can that dog really read cards?” he asked. “Yeah, but he ain’t much of a player,” said one of the men. “Whenever he gets a good hand he wags his tail.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**My son brought home an exceptionally poor report card. I inadvertently left it on the patio where we had been discussing it, and our dog chewed it to bits. Finding it shredded the next morning, my wife wrote the following note to his teacher: "Joey's report card was left on the patio where we were discussing it last night and the dog chewed it up. He was the only one who liked it. *(S. Blandina, in Reader's Digest)***

**If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went. *(Will Rogers, humorist)***

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**If dogs could talk, it would take a lot of fun out of owning one. *(Andrew A, Rooney, in Not That You Asked)***

**The average dog is a nicer person than the average person. *(Andy Rooney, journalist)***

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**I wonder if other dogs think that poodles are members of a weird religious cult. *(Rita Rudner, comedienne)***

**A dog would make a much more satisfactory pet if, instead of whimpering when a thunderstorm breaks in the middle of the night, it would tiptoe in and close the windows. *(Quoted in The Dog Lover's Reader, edited by Timothy T. Clarke)***

**Happiness is a warm puppy. *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job. *(Franklin P. Jones, humorist for The Saturday Evening Post)***

**It is estimated that 5 million pet dogs suffer from separation anxiety and many are medicated to calm them down. (Don Voorhees, in *The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 164)***

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**Sign in pet shop: "Puppy love for sale" *(Pell Petroni, in Reader's Digest)***

**Sign on the wall in a veterinarian's office: "The next time you call your dog a dumb animal, remember who he's got working to support him." *(Mark Beltaire, in Detroit Free Press)***

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**Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow. *(Jeff Valdez, producer)***

**Anybody who doesn’t know what soap tastes like never washed a dog. *(Franklin P. Jones)***

**Therapy dogs can make injured people in the emergency room feel better. Researchers asked more than 200 ER patients to record their pain levels, then gave about half the people a 10-minute encounter with a trained pooch. Afterward, this group reported less pain, as well as less anxiety and depression. Therapy dogs are “just really friendly, family pets that are so excited to visit with people and in places where you don’t typically have a pet,” says co-author Colleen Dell. “And just going into the emergency department was a natural.” *(The Week magazine, December 30, 2022 / January 6, 2023)***

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**Any time you think you have influence, try ordering around someone else’s dog. *(The Cockle Bur)***

**If your dog thinks you’re the greatest person in the world, don’t seek a second opinion. *(Jim Fiebig, United Feature Syndicate)***

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**One has but to spend a few days with an aardvark or a llama, command a water buffalo to sit up and beg, or try to housebreak a moose, to perceive how wisely Man set about his process of elimination and selection. *(James Thurber, in Thurber’s Dogs)***

**The dog has got more fun out of Man than Man has got out of the dog, for the clearly demonstrable reason that Man is the more laughable of the two animals. *(James Thurber, in Thurber’s Dogs)***

**If I have any belief about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to Heaven, and very, very few persons. *(James Thurber)* \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*To touch a child’s face, a dog’s smooth coat, a pedaled flower, the rough surface of a rock is to set up new orders of brain motion. To touch is to communicate. *(James W. Angell, in Yes Is a World)***

**Good week for: Animal channels, after a British company unveiled a large TV remote control especially designed for dogs' paws. "We know that people can feel a little guilty about leaving their dog alone," explained Wagg company spokesman Dan Reeves. *(The Week magazine, July 15, 2016)***

**Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in. (Mark Twain)**

**No dog snarls quite like an underdog that finds itself on top. *(Terence Blacker, author)***

**A dog wags its tail with its heart. *(Martin Buxbaum, in Table Talk)***

**Wanted: Boy, age 9 to 11, who loves large white dogs. Signed: large white dog who loves boys. *(Heartland News)***

**In his book, Humorous Stories About the Human Condition, Eric W. Johnson tells us about the third-grader who was given an assignment to write about “What My Dog Means to Me.” Here’s what he wrote: “My dog means somebody nice and quiet to be with. He does not say Do like my mother, or Don’t like my father, or Stop like my big brother. My dog Spot and I sit together quietly and I like him and he likes me.” *(Bits & Pieces) 17934***

**Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole. *(Roger Caras, former president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)***

**If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience. *(Woodrow Wilson, U.S. president)***

**During World War I, forty thousand Americans donated their pet dogs to serve in the Armed Forces. Seventy-five thousand dogs were used as messengers and to locate bodies. Dogs were trained to jump out of airplanes and parachute to the ground. *(Don Voorhees, in The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 194)***

**My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to $3.00 a can. That’s almost $21.00 in dog money. *(Joe Weinstein)***

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