



July 26, 2017

Wolfhounds tell the best dog jokes of any dog I know. There's decided twinkle in their eye. They can definitely be a bit devilish. A lot of dogs

will playfully run with the ball, just out of reach, teasing you to chase them. My dog Cuchulain could convince me to chase the ball all by myself. Without his ever leaving the couch. His grin seemed to say, “Suckerrrr.”

When our deerhound, Gracie, slipped in and got his place on the couch, Cuchulain would run to the door suddenly and bark. Gracie would dash to look. He’d casually take her place on the couch and flash that same ironic grin at me.

Cuchulain was wickedly self-aware. Once, I was teaching him human words. A dog can develop a working vocabulary of more than 100, so we worked on it early on. It was a windy night. I said “wind” and made a whistling sound. His head whipped towards the window. Then he cut his eyes back at my pursed lips. He slowly turned back, grinning, as if to say, “Du-uh, you got me.”

Dog owners know their dogs possess a sense of humor and lately, researchers are admitting it, too (More about it [HERE](#)). They’ve demonstrated that many animals have it. Human laughter, in fact, evolved from the panting huff apes make when amused. Chimps and bonobos, our closest relatives, boast the most laughter-like kind of panting.

Koko, a star gorilla, once tied a trainer’s shoelaces together and signed, “Chase.” (Read more about Koko [HERE](#))

It takes intelligence to display humor, and researchers know that a dog has the intelligence of at least a two-to-three old child. By that stage a child knows how the world’s supposed to work and guffaws at any deviation from the norm. Look, dad’s wearing a bowl on his head! Hyar yar yar.... My wolfhounds get it, too. My girl Oona looks at me like I’m idiot. “Just don’t do it around my friends, daaad.”

Most dogs have a sense of play, a key element in the development of

a sense of humor. When my wolfhound Finn knew I was in hurry, he'd sometimes head-butt me to the wall. Playfully, his eyes sparkling. "What's the hurry, huh daaad?" Now, our teen Oisin does the same thing. It amuses him that he has the strength to hold me in my seat.

Some breeds are believed to have a more pronounced sense of humor than others. Terriers, sharp and active, seem to display it more frequently. But most dogs mask their feelings around humans, at least until you win their trust and they know you actually care what they think. Wolfhounds are unafraid and not only have big statures, they have huge personalities, too. They're a dog without a mask. They're not afraid to show you how they feel or what they think. I think this is why they're considered practically human. They see us as equals.... And let us in on their jokes...

You've all seen displays of your dog's humor. Tell us about it in the comments!