DOGS

Understanding your very BEST FRIEND



Expert advice from
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To all dogs everywhere,
but especially Alexis, Ivan, Bruno and Ginger,
for sharing their secrets.

Hello!



I'm Dr John Bradshaw.

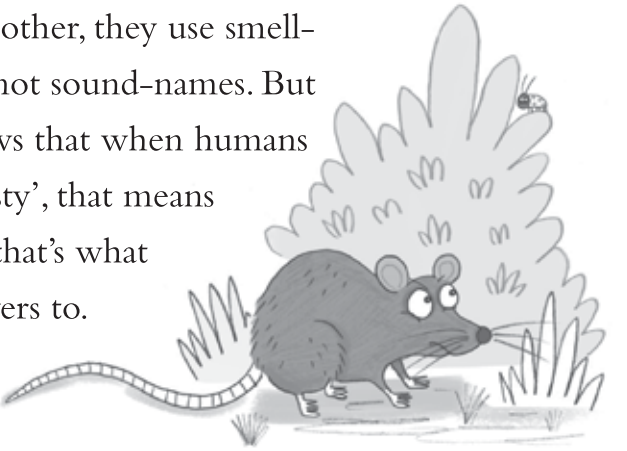
I'm a biologist, but unlike most biologists I study pets, dogs and cats in particular. In this book I am going to let you into the secret of how dogs experience the world, and what they think about it. This book will help you to be the best friend you can be to your dog. To let you into this secret, my good friend Rusty has agreed to let us follow him around for a day.



Rusty

Meet **Rusty Barker**. He's a terrier, a kind of dog whose original purpose was to keep rats away from farms and houses. These days most terriers are just household pets, but they still know how to sniff out a rat!

Of course, Rusty's not his *real* name, because he's a dog. When dogs are talking to each other, they use smell-names, not sound-names. But he knows that when humans say 'Rusty', that means *him*, so that's what he answers to.





Smells, smells, smells

What's it like being a dog like Rusty? It's not like being a grown-up. It's not like being a child. It's not like being an alien, either.



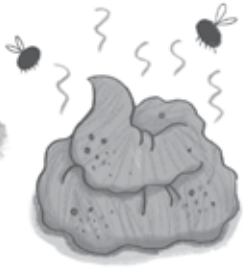
Dogs are like us in a lot of ways. They can see, hear and feel most things that we can. But they also have a superpower: their sense of smell. That's why they sniff things all the time.

Most animals live somewhere in the World of Smells.

You and I live in the World, which is everything we can see. Dogs, cats, mice, snakes, ants, moths and lots of other animals mostly live in the World of Smells, which is the same World as ours, but much, *much* stinkier.



It's full of poo smells,



pee smells,



leaf smells,



sweaty foot smells



and loads of other stinks that we don't even have names for, because our noses aren't as smart as theirs.

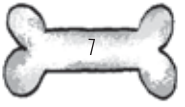
The first thing humans notice is usually what things look like. But dogs mostly care about what things smell like. That's why you like watching TV and YouTube, and dogs don't. YouTube for dogs would have to literally be a tube with stinky smells coming out of it all the time.



Yuck, you're thinking. That would mean that YouTube for dogs would make your house stink like a gigantic fart. But actually, it wouldn't have to, because dogs' noses are so sensitive that they'd only need a tiny amount of each smell, such a small amount that you wouldn't even know it was there.

A dog's eyesight isn't as good as yours, and they couldn't care less if something is pink or blue, just so long as it smells interesting. That's why the pictures in this book are in black and white, because that's roughly how dogs see things. Smells are their colours. Their sense of smell isn't magic, it's just a way of experiencing the world differently to you.

Put it another way: just because you can't see something doesn't mean it doesn't exist.



You know how to use the TV remote, don't you? (OK, probably better than your parents do.) You can't actually *see* the remote talking to the TV, but it must do, because the TV does what the remote tells it to do. The remote talks to the TV using infra-red light, a kind of light that your eyes can't see.

Well, that's a bit like how smells are for dogs. There are loads of smells that dogs find really exciting, but we have no clue about, because they are just too weak for our noses.

