

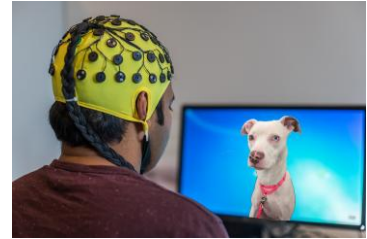
Thinking Like a Dog

Training a dog is often difficult, and not all the difficulties lie with the dog. That is why Carl found himself in the office of a neurocaninologist.

NC: You were right to come. The most common problem is that the human has to learn to think like a dog.

C: How do you do that?

NC: I don't think I can explain the concept, but you'll be able to recognize it. Let me show you.



She attached some electrodes to Carl and showed him a screen with a dial pointing to the far left.

NC: Humans have evolved with dogs for thousands of years, and regions of the human brain have developed that are dog-like, interacting with the human portion of the brain. This meter shows you the extent to which you're drawing on your dog brain. Right now, you're completely in human mode, but as you activate the dog brain, the needle will move to the right.

C: Well, I don't know...

NC: You're still thinking human thoughts, but try thinking about throwing your dog a ball...

The needle moved a tiny bit to the right.

NC: See? Those are doggier thoughts. Now imagine you're giving your dog a treat...

Maybe the needle moved a smidgen.

NC: Ah! More doggier thoughts.

C: You know, I'm feeling a bit silly.

NC: Stay with me... Now you're walking your dog, and another dog approaches. Danger! You need to exert your authority as the alpha male of your pack. You need your dog to sit, right now! You say in a loud voice...

The needle pinned to the right!

C: Omigod! What was that!

NC: To be expected... It's always doggest before the "Down!"