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Dogs Have all the Answers

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HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS

EMILY BOLINGER

I believe more people should be like dogs.

This is not to say that people should use the bathroom wherever they like, chase cars, or scratch in public. Rather, people should look to dogs in the way they live day to day. A dog can't wait for his family to get home, loves to play a good game of fetch or tug-of-war every now and then, and, of course, a dog knows the importance of a belly rub.

Take my nine-year-old standard poodle, Bob. Bob likes to find the most comfortable place and lie there for hours. If people could find that comfort spot in anything they do, there would be less discomfort and anxiety.

We joke and call Bob a "latch key dog" because we leave him home alone while we go to school and work. As soon as Bob hears the key in the lock at night, he gets up from his chair or bed of choice and runs excitedly to see us again.

I know Bob knows when we're leaving. When he sees us start to collect our things to walk out the door, he looks worried or disappointed. I've been told that when a person leaves, a dog thinks they will never be back. It must be a nice surprise for Bob to see us come home each day.

People should learn to always enjoy seeing loved ones again because who knows what tomorrow will bring? I believe we should live in the now. Although a dog has no concept of time and does not think of tomorrow or yesterday at all, it is nice to think about how happy he is right now, as opposed to constantly worrying or regretting things.

My dog loves people unconditionally. He has no problem loving a person based on how they look or act. He loves to make new friends, both canine and human, every day. That is an admirable trait in humans.

Loving someone unconditionally is hard work for people. We see others and make judgments automatically. A dog doesn't notice things like race, religion, or the beliefs of others.

With all these traits, I believe people have much to learn from their dogs.