

Why we use baby talk with pets

Vocabulary Match

naturally ● cheerful ● scientists ● habit ● attention ● embarrassed ●

● focus ● shy ● happy ● experts ● easily ● routine

Article

Do you ever use a silly, high-pitched voice when you talk to a cute dog or cat? You are not alone! Most pet owners do this naturally.

We often speak to animals in the same way we talk to human babies. We use short words, simple sentences, and a very cheerful tone.

Scientists say there is a good reason for this habit. Dogs and cats actually pay more attention when we use our "pet voice". It helps them understand our happy feelings. So, do not feel embarrassed – your furry friend loves that special voice!

Quiz

1. Who do we speak to in the same way as pets?
2. What kind of sentences and tone do we use with animals?
3. How do dogs and cats react when we use our "pet voice"?
4. What does the "pet voice" help pets understand?

Conversation

A: Hey, do you also talk to your dog in a funny voice?

B: Yes, I do! My dog loves it.

A: Really? Mine too! She gets so happy.

B: Scientists say it helps them understand us.

A: Wow, that's cool! So I'm not just being silly.

B: Nope, your pet loves it! Keep doing it.

Discussion

1. Do you (or your friends) use a special voice when talking to cute animals or babies?
2. Do you know anyone famous who speaks with a baby voice?
3. Are you more of a dog person or a cat person? Why?
4. If animals could understand English perfectly, what would you say to them?