



7

Pawsonic Ways to Bond with Your Dog



You're surely well-aware of the adage: A dog is a person's **best buddy**. You and your furry friend, indeed, have a special connection built on **unconditional love and loyalty**.

But, as with any friendship, there are things you can do to strengthen and deepen the bond between you.

Here are 7 **"pawsome"** ways to connect with your dog and take your friendship to the next level:



01

Express Your Affection



Your dog understands your emotions and reads into your actions; perhaps more than you give them credit for. This is one of the reasons they make for such fabulous (furry) friends, in fact. Science has shown, conclusively, that dogs can, without a doubt, recognize emotions in humans. Your pooch recognizes what you are feeling, when you are feeling it. Experiments have shown that dogs have the ability to integrate visual and auditory cues to perceive specific emotions in humans, as well as in other dogs.



What does all this mean, when it comes to deepening your bond with your pupper pal? This means that your dog will pick up on your affection and love for them, through what you say and what you do. So, if you want to reinforce your dog's sense of security and let them know you love and care for them, then tell and show them how you feel.

Don't skimp on the pets and pats, hugs, cuddles, and belly rubs. Tell your dog you love them, all while using their name, so that they associate it as a cue of your affection. Non-pet owners will probably look at you like you're from another planet, but, on the overall that's small stuff—don't sweat it. Your "weirdness" will pay off in a more solid than ever bond with your pooch.



02

Brush Your Dog's Coat



Brushing your dog's coat is a grooming essential, something of which many pet owners are well-aware. Regular grooming helps keep your dog's fur silky and shiny, as the act of brushing distributes the skin's natural oils evenly throughout your pooch's coat. A thorough brushing session will help to remove matted hair, thereby preventing hot spots, a bacterial eczema-like infection on your dog's skin. It likewise enables you to familiarize yourself with your dog's coat and skin, allowing you to quickly discover any parasites and other issues.



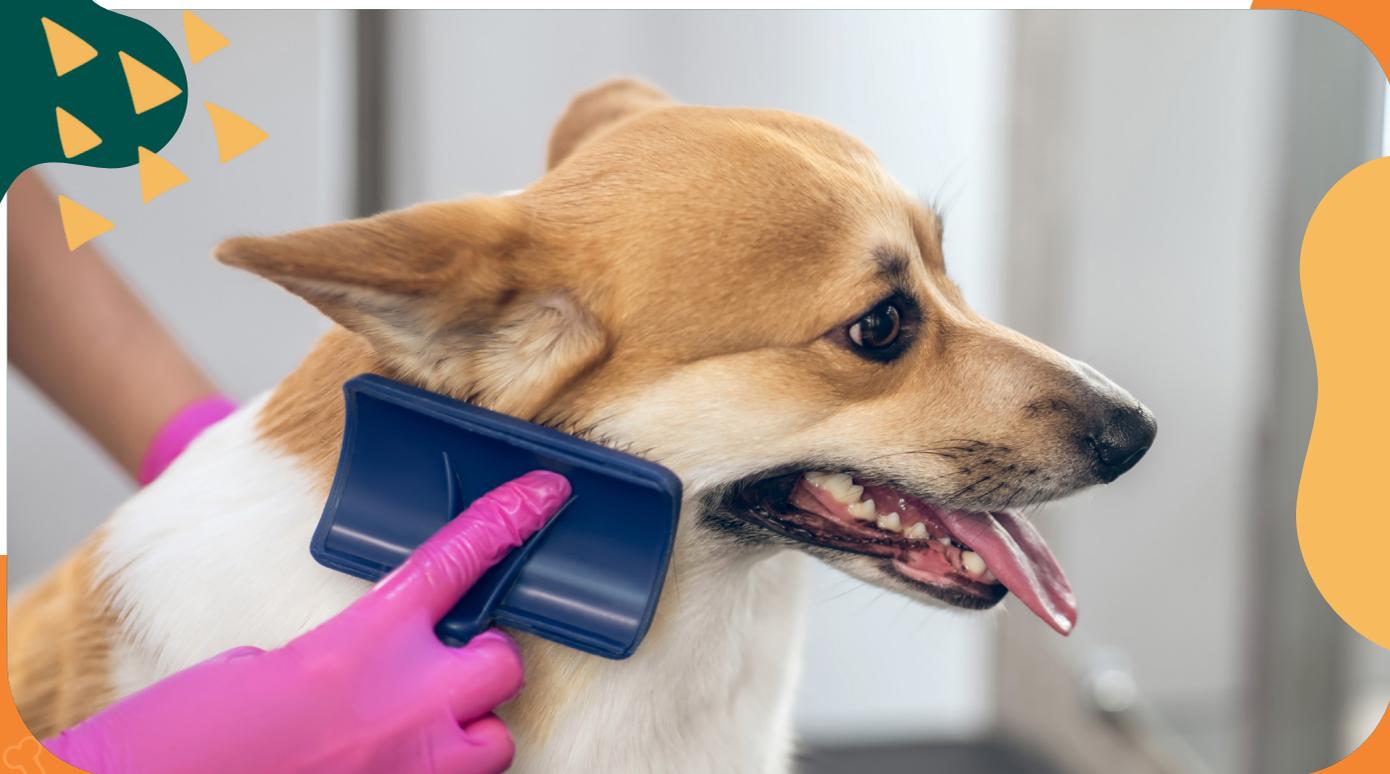
Additionally, regular brushing gets rid of excess/loose hair and keeps your dog's hair tangle-free, resulting in an overall kempt appearance for your pup—and also increasing their feelings of comfort. Imagine not shampooing and brushing your hair for weeks, on end; imagine your discomfort, your disorderly appearance. Not a pleasant thought, is it? Your dog wouldn't appreciate a dirty, slovenly coat any more than you would like to have a head of sticky, icky hair.

02

Brush Your Dog's Coat



Regular grooming is beneficial, even necessary, to your pet's appearance, comfort, and health—but the benefits go beyond that. A fur-brushing session also makes for an awesome bonding experience that you can share with your pet. It's a special time you and your dog can enjoy together, one that can be as relaxing for you as it is for them.



As your dog slips into that pet Zen zone with each brush stroke, allow them to feel the affection and care that you have for them. Talk to your dog while grooming their coat. Let them know that this is a time you enjoy, and not a chore.

02

Brush Your Dog's Coat



Remember, some dogs initially shy away from the grooming experience or may be nervous at first. Take your time to introduce your dog to the process. Use even, light to moderate brush strokes, until your dog is accustomed to the brushing. Keep in mind that the belly of a dog's body is often more sensitive, so brush even more gently in that area.



Choose a brush with soft, rounded bristles for all-around grooming, and one that is a bit more heavy-duty for tangled fur. Long- and thick-haired dogs will require more frequent brushing sessions, perhaps every two days, whereas shorter-haired dogs may be fine with a good brushing twice a week.

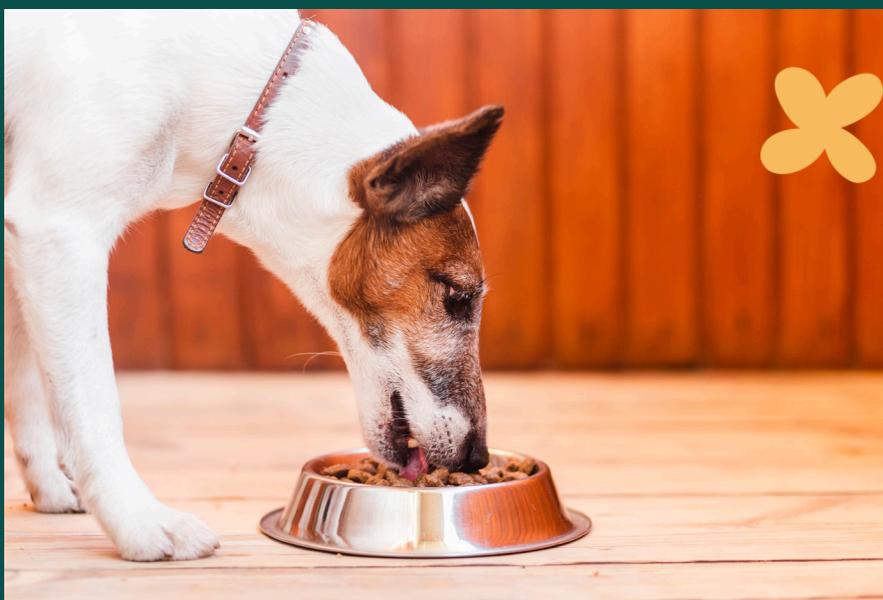
03

Make Mealtime Fun



Mealtime is a much-anticipated time for your beloved dog.

First off, prepare and feed your dog healthy, top-quality nutritious food. It may be costlier for you to buy the good stuff, at the onset, but you will reap the rewards of a happy, healthy hound. Spending on quality food still comes out cheaper than spending on vet's bills—something that you should keep in mind when choosing dog food for sale.



Pay attention to your dog's special nutritional needs, as well, in the selection process. Better yet, prepare a lovingly home-cooked meal for your pooch, as often as your schedule will permit you to do so. Aside from the health benefits that come with proper nutrition, feeding time also strengthens your bond with your dog. Your dog trusts and sees you as their provider; mealtime serves to reinforce that trust.

03

Make Mealtime Fun



Here are some ways to build on that trust and make mealtime even more exciting for your happy hound:



Switch up your dog's food, every so often; but be sure to introduce new food the proper way



Employ a food dispensing toy, now and then; and... Reward your dog with their favorite treat



Use a slow-feeding bowl if your dog is prone to scarfing down their food; this way, your pooch will enjoy their meal without the consequences that come with eating too quickly.



Make your dog's food extra scrumptious by topping it with low-sodium gravy, bone broth, a bit of milk, or by warming it up

04

Play! Play! Play!



Just as human kids and their parents bond over playtime, you form a deeper connection with your dog doing the same. From fetch and other running games outdoors to hide-and-seek and interactive games indoors, there is an array of fun and exciting games you can play with your pet. Active play is beneficial to your dog's overall health, physically and mentally.



Games that require physical exertion help keep your dog at an ideal weight, which is beneficial to their heart health, as well as the condition of their joints. Plus, active play lubricates your pet's joints, and improves their balance and coordination. Mentally, playtime provides your pet with the chance to engage their brain, sharpening their ability to focus. It also decreases behavioral problems in dogs, giving them a great outlet for excess energy and pent-up emotions.

04

Play! Play! Play!



When you get in on playtime with the pooch, your dog will learn to see you not only as their provider, but also as their source of fun and entertainment; a companion in camaraderie—a true friend. Some tips for fun and fulfilling playtime include:



Purchase sturdy, non-toxic dog toys for sale that are appropriate to your pet's size and age



Learn what games your dog enjoys by trying a bunch of different activities



Reward and praise your dog if you are playing interactive games with them



Use your “excited voice” when playing to amp-up the fun for you and your dog; this will also help your pet to learn the cues and commands associated with playtime



Schedule daily play sessions that are short but frequent to maintain your dog's interest and energy levels



Don't force your dog to play if, for some reason, they aren't up to it

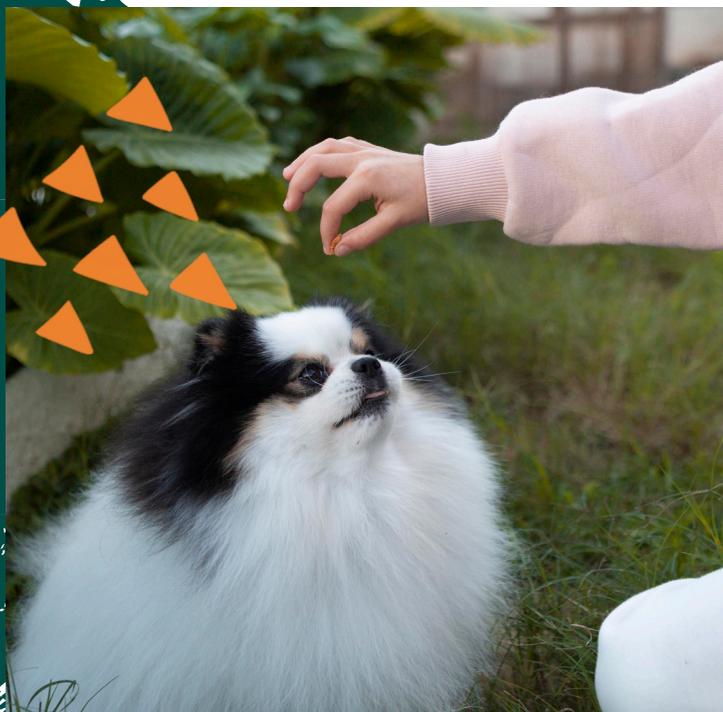
05

Practice “Pawsitive” Reinforcement



Positive reinforcement is among the best tools in your doggy training arsenal, and is a very useful tactic in shaping your pet's behavior—all in a loving, non-threatening way. It is a type of training that employs a reward system to acknowledge and ingrain desired behavior in your pet. Way more than scolding or yelling at your pet, which is punishment-based training, a reward is far more likely to get your dog to remember and repeat the desired behavior.

Common rewards include **treats, physical signs of affection (like patting your dog), verbal praise, toys**, and the like. The use of positive reinforcement enables you to **connect with your dog** throughout the teaching and training process. It serves to bridge the communication or language gap between you and your dog, and helps to strengthen your relationship.



Ultimately, it creates an atmosphere of security and confidence between you and your pet. Your dog will develop a deep sense of trust in you, which will also encourage them to cooperate with you, and want to please you by repeating the desired behavior. Dogs that have been trained using positive reinforcement techniques are more good-natured, self-disciplined, secure, confident, and well-adjusted, overall.

06

Get to Know Your Dog's Likes and Dislikes



While this may sound like a given, it is sometimes easy for dog owners to overlook the fact that their pet has their own likes and dislikes, too. No two dogs are exactly the same, and it would do you well to take the time to learn your dog's unique preferences. From food and games to scents around the house and routines, every dog has their specific shtick. For instance, some dogs can't get enough of your hugs, while others may want their personal space, at times.



There are dogs who love to socialize with other dogs, while some puppies shy away from canine contact. Some dogs prefer long, slow walks, while others would rather go on short but spirited sprints. The list goes on, and you learn from observing your dog and trying out new things with them. Finding out what your dog prefers is vital to deepening your bond with them, as it will enable you to respond appropriately to your dog. This, in turn, makes your dog even more secure around you as their source of gratification.

07

Express Your Affection



Of course, you can't deepen or form a solid bond with your dog if you're never around! No matter how busy your schedule may be, make the time to spend with your dog. Quality time with your dog is super important—not just for them, but for you, as well.



This is a factor that must come into play, when deciding to bring a furry friend into your home or when considering how many pets you can realistically handle. Your pet will require a certain amount of your time, and you'd best be ready and willing to give it. Spending time with your dog will result in a happier, healthier hound, who will be your faithful friend to the end.



There you have it—7 ways to forge a firmer friendship with your furry friend. These are just a few of many **“pawsome”** ways you can deepen your bond with your darling doggo. Your efforts will be well-worth it, as your pup rewards you with a wellspring of **love and loyalty!**

