

Quiz Discussion

Section 1 : Canine Communication

CC19 : Sniffing

Our recommendation is that you first attempt the quiz before reviewing the discussion on the next page. The discussion sometimes recaps what was in the video and sometimes it adds new insights.

Which of the following is true about sniffing?

This was a trick question. Dogs do sniff when they are curious about certain smells. We also know that when done out of free will, sniffing can calm dogs down. However, there is also evidence that when they are put on jobs that require sniffing, it can actually stress them out. Dogs can use sniffing for signalling too. Dogs sniff when they try to gain information.

True or false : If we want the dog to calm down, we can train the dog to sniff on cue.

Sniffing is known to be calming in some situations, when done out of free will. But when trained to sniff, we do not have evidence that it may have a calming effect. In fact, some studies done on working dogs show us that dogs that are on sniffing jobs have elevated stress levels. Dogs may also get agitated based on what they have just sniffed. Dogs that want to sniff as a way to cope and calm down, should be given a chance to do so. But we cannot rely on training a dog to use this as a way to calm down. It may not have the desired impact and without a pulse monitor, we may not know.