


# Humans humping each other

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On a beautiful, warm day, I watched a group of dogs frolic in a dog park. Suddenly I heard a high squeal of a woman, followed by the thud of human feet. There was no need to look; it was obviously about dog humping, which we can also call montage. Dogs hump the air, they mount pillows and blankets, and they can be found ready for a neighbor's dog or befriend Uncle Joe's leg, but not Uncle Albert. The installation pops up in many contexts and is aimed at any number of objects, both animized and inanimate. Aside from giving the installers silly nicknames like humping bean or sir-hump-lot, what should we make of all this bumping and grinding? Talking about dog behavior is always about politics: everyone has their own opinion. According to Cynthia Heyman of Utah, her three-year-old Danish-Swedish farmdog, Jet, is a play-humper. Jet is intact and he likes to hump when he plays. He seems to like boys more than girls. Last weekend, he was humping the neutered Aussie, who humped him back as they played. For Margaret Duclos of Seattle, Washington, dog montage is associated with excitement and excitement. One of my dogs sometimes humps the other when we get in the car - usually only when it's been a few days since we went somewhere and he's particularly excited. At the other end of the spectrum, there are some dog humping attribute to dominance. Brigitte Reed of Salt Lake City, Utah, says: My dog, Snickers, which is sterilized, will hump our male dog, Kitha. The reason is that she is an alpha and she asserts her dominance over it. Putting it in its place, as it were. When the dog is a humper, the inevitably owner next to the story is usually the one that describes who or what is set (stuffed animals, cats, other dogs) and the context in which humping occurs (when guests come, on a dog run, during obedience tests). Owners postulate that gender, breed, age, reproductive status and even size can provide information about humpbacks. Most of these stories are the culmination of questions - Why in the world does she do it? Aren't men humpers? - or impressions, anything from It's just to play or It dominates it's pretty popular! Animal researchers are taking note of the HumpingAs one would expect animal behavior researchers have a lot to say on this topic. Studying any behavior, we can ask for help from the insight of the Nobel prize winner and the famous etiologist Nico

Tinbergen. Tinbergen's Four Issues provide a solid basis for understanding why animals behave the way they behave. One of Tinbergen's questions is especially labels: How does behavior develop in a person's life? Mount! Almost as long as etilogists studied dogs, they took note of the dog's propensity to hump out Context. In the early 1970s, University of Colorado etiologist Mark Bekoff, Ph.D., Philosophy, study of the development of canide social behavior. Jacob observed the interaction of young canids, pairs of three to seven-week wolves, coyotes and dogs. Especially among puppy dogs, mounting, squeezing and pelvic shoving appeared early in the game. While males are mounted more than females, females also engage in aspects of behavior. Dr. Sunil Kumar Pal, an assistant teacher at Katwa Bharati Bhaban School in West Bengal, India, received similar results in investigating the social behaviour of young, free pet dogs. By six weeks, both male and female puppies were mounting, squeezing and pelvic shoving. That's what dogs do. This is perfectly normal behavior, explains Carolyn Walsh, Ph.D., an associate professor of psychology at Memorial University of Newfoundland, who studies the nuances of dog behavior in dog parks. Both men and women are mounted, regardless of whether they are sexually intact or not. Celeste Ponrash, a breeder in Hungary, believes the installation could change with hormonal shifts. Now we live with seven bitches, and when someone comes in season or season, some dogs want a hump and others ask to be humped. Even so, it always includes a bitch in the season. Studies show that castration of men can reduce the montage, but certainly do not stop it in their tracks. After all, it's more than hormones. (Alas, no study noted if Barry White's songs were played in the background at the time the behavior was exhibited.) Complex dog mounting From the tail wagging barking, the behavior of the dog is riddled with nuances. A dog's wagging tail can convey I'm very afraid or it's the best day ever! Like a tail wagging, dog mounting is much more complex than it may seem, and there is no single simple explanation. But there are some likely candidates. In many cases, the montage is associated with a surge of emotions such as feelings of anxiety or arousal (in this context, arousal means general stimulation). In a recent dog park behavior study, Walsh and her student, Lydia Ottenheimer of Carrier, found that dogs doing the most montage also make the most play. Walsh explains: Dog parks can be quite stimulating, and for those who are very aroused physiologically, mounting behavior can easily come out. There may be such a build-up of social motivation and a desire to affiliate that some of this energy is poured into the system of sexual motivation. You see sexual behavior coming out, but it's mostly out of context. The general arousal of the dog or anxiety is not limited to the dog park. Stimulation easily translates into everyday situations: a new person comes in, a new dog or dog is locked up in the house all day. One of my dogs humps the other when I grab leashes, or otherwise I do things that signal going somewhere, says Duclos.Dawn Cleary, owner of Blue Cerebus Dog Boutique in Madison, Utah attributes of the montage exhibited by one of her hers Retrievers to excitement. When my champion Frisbee catches Frisbee, my little one loves to run and hump it. It's the only time she does it... Kind of like she wants to share in the glory of Frisbee being caught. (Is the dog equivalent painting your face and watching the Super Bowl?) So why do dogs mount? Peter Borchelt, PhD, and Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB) in New York, reminds us: There are only so many behaviors a dog has access to, and dogs do what is part of their typical behavior. This is what they know how to do it. Since their options are somewhat limited, the dog, rather than reading funny pages during downtime, may be inclined to learn stuffed animals a little better. Is Dog Humping Dominance Driven? What else could be mounting about? For some owners, dog montage equates to dominance and control, words that suggest that you may not want your four-legged friend to participate in this behavior. But what is dominance, and where does the montage fit in? According to Carlos Dreus, Ph.D., dominance is not a characteristic, but rather refers to the description of interaction between two individuals. Dominance is an attribute of the pattern of repetitive, agonistic interactions between two persons characterized by a consistent result in favor of the same member dyad and by default gives the answer of his opponent, not escalation ... Dominance is a relative measure, not the absolute property of individuals. the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior defines it as a relationship between individual animals, which is established by force/aggression and submission to determine who has priority access to multiple resources, such as food, preferred resting places and mates. Is the installation related to dominance? You don't have to. Becky Trisco, Ph.D., behavior and owner of Unleashed in Evanston, Illinois, studied dog-dog interaction in the dog kindergarten setting. The montage was not associated with status (agonistic) behaviors like aggression and submission, but instead correlated with the game and other affiliate behavior. For example, a dog that muzzles another dog - behavior often associated with Let's be friends. So am I! Like me! - can also mount the same dog. If the montage is specified status or domination of the relationship, we expect the installers to get an idea from other dogs, but that's not what we find. Similarly, the dog is probably not trying to dominate the dog bed it has just installed. Several motives behind MountingMounting occur in different contexts and can be surrounded by different behaviors. Humping can be assertive behavior related to social bonds, rather than competition for resources or status. In friendly contexts, dog montage can be attention-grabbing behavior to provoke As Trisco explains, among the game's preferred partners (scientific jargon for friends), this almost seems like a way to get others to play. Dog Dog Make a game of bow, bark and paw on the dog. If the second dog doesn't really respond, the mount will often get the growth out of the dog and then they will play. Trisco also suggests that mounting among friends is related to bond testing. It's the idea that dogs perform potentially annoying behaviors like mounting to test the strength of the recipient's investment in the relationship. It's like saying: How much will you put up with? How much do you really love me? Since the build-up appears to be in an affiliated rather than aggressive or status-related context, this is a provocative possibility. At the same time, the installation is not always associated with friendship. Aimee Moore, CPDT, Dog's Best Friend Training in Madison, Wisconsin, says: I don't think there's one simple explanation, but with unfamiliar dogs, or often even with owners, it can be pretty rough and related to status. As Borchelt, who has been treating behavioral problems for more than 30 years, points out: Installation can be part of a set of behaviors related to aggression, such as high posture, resource protection, direct views, threats and standing. But the installation itself does not indicate a status problem. By itself, the montage may not mean much. He also believes it may even be problematic to attribute the label dominance to the dog, which is a monster. If you perceive a dog as dominant because it mounts, you may think that you should take action so that the dog is not dominant to you - maybe always make the heel of a dog that could cut into sniffing, exercise and dog-dog interaction, or use bullying to force the dog to follow explicit rules. This can have negative consequences for the relationship. But that's not all than the installer. Not all dogs welcome the installation. Jesy Nelson of New York notes that her dog Gracie, a mongrel who looks more like Falcor Luckdragon from The Never Ending Story than a member of Canis, has changed her relationship with the montage as she aged. As Nelson recalls, Gracie used to let the other dogs hump her and then they would continue to play. Now she will freak out at the dogs that mount her. What to do with your dog Humping? Training and dog-owner communication can help the humper maintain friendly interactions with dogs and people alike. Moore offers a variety of teaching methods. I would like to work on obedience so I can get my dog's attention when she starts focusing on another dog. I would also work on call-always - the dog greets and sniffs properly and then call her back and reinforce for such behavior. So you catch her before she mounts. Because installation is often associated with a level of arousal, Moore recommends relaxation protocols, downtime or training for alternative behavior when working on installation. Angela Limburg from Chicago, Utah trying to redirect his dog. My boy humps his bedding... It seems to happen when he's overexcited. We try to redirect it - usually by offering cheese or cookies works. But at the end of the day, the montage is still a tricky behavior to figure out. Installation is one of those behaviors you wouldn't want to have one answer on, explains Borchelt, and Bekoff agrees. It's complicated, and we don't want to say the installation is always like this or always. What we learn about animal behavior is that we have to be very careful about the common. Dogs don't always greet each other by sniffing the ingo genital area, and they don't always circle before you lie down. It is not uncommon for owners to say: I am deeply embarrassed that my dog humps. Some feelings of disapproval on the part of other owners: I feel a social imperative to stop him humping. These feelings are understandable because for many, dogs don't just promote the hair of our favorite black pants; they are members of our family and best friends. This means some of our best friends are humpers. I think the sense of embarrassment is not very well positioned, Walsh notes. Given that montage is a normal part of a dog's behavioral repertoire, owners can eliminate some of the stress and anxiety that learn montage as it relates to their individual dog. When trying to get over any behavior (pun intended), Bekoff recommends becoming an at-home etiologist. Get paper and pencil, and watch and write down what happens before and after the behavior of interest. This can tell you more about the behavior itself. This method can help you determine when behavior should be managed and when it is just fine. If dogs could talk - and they actually do with their behavior - they would ask us not to stick together in one universal sense. So what is the montage behavior of your dog telling you? In general, when we try to figure out behavior, it is better for us to observe and understand its roots than to tell ourselves and others. Other.

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