

**Lyceum 103 - July 24, 2025, Neighborhood/Parish Lyceum** – a forum to Think, Discuss, Share, and Learn from one another. Your input is welcomed - Iron sharpens iron.

“The 1826, in Connecticut, a farmer named Josiah Holbrook started a school for ‘the general diffusion of knowledge and raising the moral and intellectual taste’ of Americans. In those days, the opportunities for higher education were limited to those venerable old universities that had long served the upper crust. Holbrook’s vision was to make learning – practical, liberal, and humane – available to working people of all kinds. He named his school the Lyceum, after the garden where Aristotle once taught his students philosophy.... We need to go deeper than the superficial fights that characterize public life. We need to return to the first principles and meet each other there as human beings.” – Nathan Beacom, Plough Magazine, Autumn 2023, p. 9.

**Find a pet to:** pet, love, take care of, play with, relax with, walk and run around the yard and neighborhood, take a nap with, talk and sing to, go hiking, go for a ride, be a therapy dog, rescue from the humane center, provide food, water, and treats, and to read a good book such as , “This dog will change your life” by Elias Weiss Friedman with Ben Greenman – “Dogs know instinctively that yesterday is gone and tomorrow is never promised, that the only time we have is now.” And “Let Us help dogs be dogs, try to see them for who they are, so we can help them do what they are trying to do. Allow a dog to sniff that thing, roll in the other thing, have your company, be engaged and social and occupies. How we, individually and socially, treat dog’s matters.” – Alexandria Horowitz.

As I compose this Lyceum, the computer rests on my lap as I sit in my composing "lazy boy" chair with Sophie(15 years) snuggled between my hip and the arm rest, and Rambeau (8 years) rests next to my legs on the leg-rest. Now Rambeau was here first but was blocking Sophie from jumping up. She begins to whine, indicating she was to join us, being the social animal, she is. I say nothing, but Rambeau hears her plea, gets up, and moves over making room for Sophie to jump up and settles down. Soon thereafter Rambeau arises and goes back to his original place. Yes, Rambeau just gave evidence of logical thinking and empathy. Sophie wants to get up, I am in the way, I will move, and then she can join us. Wow, Rambeau is a scholar, gentleman, and good Samaritan. Dog is God spelled backwards.

“Love animals. God has given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled. Do not trouble their joy, do not harass them, do not deprive them of their happiness, do not work against God’s intent. Humans, do not pride yourself on superiority to animals, they are without sin, and you, with your greatness, defile the earth by your appearance on it, and leave the traces of your foulness after, alas, it is true of almost every one of us!” -Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

**Emotionally, What Dogs Will Always Remember About You.**

**Dogs are not just pets; they are members of our family, sharing in our joys and comforting us in our sorrow. Their incredible emotional intelligence allows them to remember the things we do and say, sometimes more than we realize. Discover the special memories your dog cherishes about you, from the playful to the profound.**

### **1. Your Tone of Voice**

**The way you speak to your dog leaves a lasting impact. Dogs have an uncanny ability to notice subtle changes in tone and inflection. Whether you are praising them with excitement or calming them with gentle reassurance, your furry friend remembers your voice's warmth and intent long after the moment has passed. This auditory memory strengthens your bond, making your voice alone enough to bring comfort and happiness.**

### **2. Love and Affection**

**Love is a universal language, and dogs excel at understanding it. The affection you shower on your dog, whether through cuddles or soft pats, becomes a cherished memory for them. Studies show that physical touch releases oxytocin, the "love hormone," in both humans and dogs. These sweet moments of affection forge a deep emotional connection, engraving your love into their hearts forever.**

### **3. Favorite Toys**

**Imagine your dog's excitement when you pick up their favorite toy. Playtime is not just physical exercise; it is an emotional boost that they associate with you. Whether it is a squeaky ball or a ragged stuffed animal, each toy represents countless hours of fun and bonding. These objects serve as tangible reminders of the joy you have shared, making every wag of the tail a testament to the happiness you bring them.**

### **4. Your Scent**

**A dog's sense of smell is incredibly powerful, and your unique scent is one of their most treasured memories. It connects them to your presence even when you are not around. Ever wonder why your dog curls up with your shoes or clothes? It is because your scent offers comfort and security, acting as a constant reminder of your bond. Their remarkable olfactory memory ensures that your essence remains with them, even from afar.**

### **5. Training Moments**

Training sessions are more than just commands and treats—they are the foundation of your relationship with your dog. When you patiently guide them through learning, dogs remember the feeling of accomplishment and the praise you give. Each ‘sit,’ ‘stay,’ or ‘roll over’ is not about the act itself; it is about the warmth and encouragement they feel during the process. These moments reinforce their trust in you and their desire to please. Dogs thrive on positive reinforcement, and these training victories leave lasting imprints on their hearts and minds.

## **6. The Sound of Your Car**

Dogs are experts at recognizing sounds, especially the distinctive hum of your car engine. Long before you reach home, your furry friend is already wagging their tail in anticipation. This is not about their acute hearing; it is about the joy and excitement associated with your presence. Over time, they have come to know that this sound signals your return, and the ensuing excitement is something they deeply cherish. This emotional association creates a strong bond, further cementing their unwavering loyalty and joy whenever you are nearby.

## **7. Feeding Times**

Feeding time is a daily ritual that goes beyond satisfying hunger. For dogs, it is an expression of care and consistency. The anticipation leading up to meals, followed by the gratitude-filled tail wags, shows just how much these moments mean to them. Dogs appreciate routine, and the predictability of feeding times reinforces their sense of security. It is not just the act of eating but the loving attention that accompanies it, leaving an indelible mark on their memory—the satisfaction of a full belly and the reassurance of being cared for.

## **8. Daily Walks**

Few things excite a dog more than the prospect of a daily walk. These adventures are a source of joy and exploration. The moment you reach for the leash, their eyes light up with anticipation. It is not only about stretching their legs, but the social interactions, new smells, and quality time spent with you. Walks create a landscape of vibrant memories, where dogs link the freedom of the outdoors with the happy companionship of their owner. Each stroll is not just exercise—it is an affirmation of the love and friendship you share.

## **9. Your Emotions**

Dogs are incredibly perceptive creatures, with an uncanny ability to sense the emotional energy around them. They can notice your moods, whether you are feeling joyous, stressed, or sad. This sensitivity is not just a trait; it is a deep bond with their human companions. Whenever you cuddle with your canine friend after a long day, they remember the warmth and comfort you provide—and the times you have sought comfort from them too. This emotional connection forms the foundation of a trust that deeply embeds in their hearts.

#### **10. Playtime Activities.**

Playtime is not about burning off energy for dogs; it is a joyful celebration of life and companionship. Whether it is a rousing game of fetch or a playful tug-of-war, your dog's memory banks these moments of shared fun. They remember the thrill of a playful chase, the fake-outs, and the spontaneous belly rubs that often ensue. These cheerful activities are not forgotten; they are eagerly anticipated. Every wag and bound springs from fond memories of past playtimes, creating a reservoir of joy to tap into. -Internet.

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Let us pray for all of God's creatures.

“Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering, for any that are hunted or lost, or deserted or frightened or hungry, for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all your mercy and pity and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kind words. Make us, ourselves, to be loyal friends to animals and so share the blessings of the merciful.” -Albert Schweitzer.

“O God, I thank you for all the creatures you have made, so perfect in their kind, great animals like the elephant and the rhinoceros, humorous animals like the camel and the monkey, friendly ones like the dog and the cat, working ones like the horse and the ox, timid ones like the squirrel and the rabbit, majestic ones like the lion and the tiger, for birds with their sons. Lord, give us such love for your creation, that love may cast out fear, and all your creatures see in us their priest and friend through Jesus Christ our Lord.” -George Appleton.

Roger J. Vanden Busch