

Fur-ever in our Hearts

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Humans are known as complication magnets. We are driven by the urge of complicating even the simplest feelings — love being the most complex of them all. It is common knowledge that love is not easy to understand; however, we do not do much to help. We are deeply attached to expectations, as if we were waiting for Prince Charming to appear down the street. We pursue love as if it was a puzzle that needs solving, not as a presence to be felt. We tend to question and measure everything to the last detail instead of allowing ourselves to feel. The truth is we only wish that love was that easy, that love could blind us all to the point of believing we are living in a romantic movie made especially for us. We idealize, we overthink, and sometimes forget that we can try again. But there are still forms of caring that we may consider genuine, though not entirely human. Maybe love does not need a big gesture, or even a human heart, to be real. One of the purest forms of love we know can wag its tail.

Dogs do not need big gestures to show love. They can express it in the simplest ways; following you from room to room, wagging their tails every time they see you, or resting their heads on your lap when you need it the most. They seem to have a sixth sense for emotions, always knowing when you are sad or anxious. Dogs can understand your emotional state better than your best friend with a degree in psychology. They never hold grudges — and if they do, it is just to add a dramatic effect. Their love is permanent, instinctive, and overthinking-free, which is something humans can rarely achieve.

Some dogs go beyond daily gestures and show their love to helping others. Guide dogs lead blind people safely across streets, therapy dogs visit hospitals and bring comfort to patients who may not receive it from anyone else, and rescue dogs risk their lives in natural disasters to find people they have never even met. Their actions are not only driven by training but by loyalty and a unique ability to connect with humans. There is a reason why animals are chosen to perform these tasks. Their love is not shown through gifts of flowers, chocolates, or poems; it shows up in the form of help, protection, and silent companionship. While humans often complicate love relations with doubts and expectations, dogs simply put their hearts to work.

My golden retriever has been a unique teacher of love. Whenever I come home tired or upset, she comes to greet me, making me feel that I am the best thing that has ever happened to her. She sits by my side during long study sessions, sometimes resting her paw on my leg with a look in her eyes that screams ‘you are doing great’. If I am feeling blue, she quietly lays her head on my lap without asking for attention — and that is more than enough. Her loyalty, patience, and special care have taught me more about love than any other personal experience ever could.

I have seen dogs refuse a warm and cozy shelter just so they can keep their homeless owner company. I have seen others carrying their food across the street; not for themselves, but to feed their puppies. Some of them work. Some of them protect. Some simply sit quietly by your side when you are feeling under the weather. They come closer with their wagging tails, their shining eyes and no requests. They give without expecting anything in return. Their kind of love is not loud, poetic or perfect. What makes their show of affection different from that of humans is that it is ever present. Constant. Unconditional. The notion of ‘grudge’ does not exist in a dog’s mind, but neither does ‘time’. They take advantage of every second they have to make the most of each moment

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that they spend by our side. We might spend years trying to define love when they are born already knowing its true meaning.