

# Puppy Love

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Oh...  
Those Long  
Adorable  
Ears!

Puppies are born deaf and cannot hear until they are about 21 days old. By the time their sense of hearing is completely developed a dog can hear a sound at a distance four times greater than a human. They have another advantage over people because the muscles in their ears allow them to alter and reposition the direction of their outer ears enabling them to identify where the sound is coming from. But, all dog ears are not created equal; dogs with standup, spiked ears can hear better than dogs with hanging ears like a dachshund.

## Napoleon the Great



Initially, Napoleon's pet parent was startled when her very obedient, well-mannered dog abruptly left her side, raced across a road and plunged into a nearby lake. Napoleon made his way back to his mom dragging a drenching wet burlap sack which she assumed would only contain trash. But, much to her surprise she heard faint meowing coming from the bag of "trash" and realized it contained abandoned kittens. Six kittens in total; all were in bad shape but four were nursed back to being healthy, robust kittens. It is miraculous that Napoleon was able to hear the desperate cry of baby kittens at such a great distance, especially above the normal din of everyday life, but he did, and four little kittens lived happily ever after. Napoleon was a hero!

**It's  
Really  
About the  
Cheese**



We'd shown off our two dogs for visitors before by demonstrating our dogs' prowess at playing the *Go Find It* game and their understanding of sign language. We'd even shown our dog's love for sliced cheese, which is a joy to behold with their tails wagging furiously as they jostle each other trying to get through the door first. But, never before had we put their love of sliced cheese to the ultimate test, let alone in front of witnesses.

The dogs had already gone to bed, apparently tired of hearing us laugh and carry on over the card game we were playing. Once the dogs go to bed, they don't come down until morning so for us, this was the ultimate test. My husband wanted to demonstrate how a cheese wrapper could bring the dogs running, even from several rooms away.

Realizing the dogs were probably sound asleep, I had zero faith the test would work. No way would the dogs hear the cheese wrapper and even if they did, they were in sleep mode and wouldn't care enough to come down and investigate. My husband removed a piece of cheese from its wrapper and crinkled the wrapper. Immediately, the sounds of two dogs shaking off sleep erupted upstairs. Both dogs had heard the muffled sound of the cheese wrapper being crinkled and came bounding down the stairs with eyes aglow at the prospect of their favorite treat.

The party trick was a hit! Our guests were duly amazed. Undoubtedly they went home laughing at our silliness with the successful dog trick.

Sharon Delarose, March 12, 2013