

Puppy Love

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Beautiful Kyabella modeling her whiskers.

Probably the only person interested in the state of a dog's whiskers is a show breeder who wants to give their dog an esthetic advantage over the competition by clipping the whiskers around their muzzle and above their eyes. The truth is, a dog's whiskers are an important part of their anatomy that we generally fail to appreciate. Whiskers, more formally called *vibrissae*, are a stiff specialized hair externally, but internally they have a rich nerve supply at their base allowing dogs to experience touch much like we do with our fingers. A dog's vision is not a highly evolved trait, so, whiskers help a dog navigate better because the nerves in the follicles of a whisker send sensory messages to the brain allowing a dog to investigate and better understand their environment. The vibrations felt in the canine whiskers serve as receptors for important information about the size, shape and speed of nearby objects, they enable dogs to determine the depth of an enclosure they enter, and they signal the direction a smell is coming from. A dog will aggressively flair his whiskers when he senses a threat. Whiskers are an important part of being a dog.



Night Eyes

Dogs have poor vision at night. Their whiskers serve as an extra pair of eyes and helps them navigate when they are in a low light environment.



Dogs love candy, especially chocolate. Take extra precautions so your little doxie does not sneak some of your treats. Chocolate is poisonous to dogs.

Whisker Wisdom:

My goal in life is to be as good of a person as my dog thinks I am.



The Oscar Wiener Dog

by Andrea Dietrich

A dachshund named Oscar was he,
which adored trick or treating with me,
so I had me some fun
when I sewed a cloth bun,
for a Halloween weenie he'd be.

On his costume I added a trim
mustard yellow, but though he's not slim,
he's no Oscar Mayer,
so don't raise his ire
by taking a bite out of him!