

# Puppy Love

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## Merry Christmas!

It turns out that dogs really do like music and this possibility has prompted several humans to develop music just for dogs. As far back as 2010, artist Laurie Anderson performed the first known concert designed just for dogs at Times Square in New York City. The music was created to be easily heard by dogs but only audible to human ears if they wore earphones. She actually performed her “dog concert” on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert and some canine guests seemed to enjoy the experience. Spotify has followed suite by developing a playlist just for canines. But, this is a news flash: dogs have their very own first Christmas song designed just for them. *Raise the Woof* was based on scientific research into the ways dogs interact with sound, along with input from animal behaviorists. The song, created with the assistance from the company’s head vet, Sean McMormack, and dog behaviorist, Carolyn Menteith, is based on sounds and noises that dogs enjoy, like squeaky toys, bells, and basic commands. Humorously, the creators refer to the song as *Waggae*. The single and music video was produced by Tails.com and released in November of 2020.



Psychologist, Deborah Wells of Queens University in Belfast conducted research on shelter dogs and documented they might actually enjoy music; depending on what kind it is. The dogs listening to pop music did not seem to have any type of reaction. The heavy-metal tunes prompted barking and agitation, and classical music seemed to have a calming effect. “It is well established that music can influence our moods,” Wells summarized. “Classical music, for example, can help to reduce levels of stress, whilst grunge music can promote hostility, sadness, tension, and fatigue. Signs that dogs are enjoying the music include alertness, trying to discover where the sounds are coming from, head cocking, or moving their ears to get a better listen, as well as tails wagging.



Violet lives in Georgia with her wonderful family.



## The Most Famous Zebra Crossing...

in the world is located at the Abbey Road Studio in London where the Beatles recorded almost all of their studio recordings. Their 1969 album is named after the crossing. It turns out that canine tunes can be truly appreciated by some music connoisseurs. *Raising the Woof* was recorded at the Abbey Road Studio, just like the Beatles.



According to a study completed in the UK 1000 dogs’ number one preferred Christmas hit was *Last Christmas* by Wham! *Jingle Bells* came in second. *All I Want For Christmas* won third place.