

Puppy Love

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It's In the Kiss

There are a lot of reasons why a dog likes to put his tongue on you. It begins as an instinct at birth when a mother licks her newborn; to a newborn this is very comforting. So, as an infant he learned doggie kisses are a natural show of affection ~ so, yes, he is kissing his mom and dad. But, there are other reasons why your dog wants to lick you. Dog experts at the AKC share another reason for puppy kisses, "It seems gross to us, but our sweaty, salty skin can be intriguing to dogs, who tend to explore the world with their mouths and are comforted by the scent of their loving pet parents. It's the same reason they often steal our socks and underwear." In other words, dogs love their pet parents and are comforted by their smell and taste. Dogs practice licking as a good form of stress relief. When they can detect their pet parents are agitated or excited they often lick them in an effort to sooth them. And, if a dog is upset he may implement a licking ritual to calm himself down.



Lily is home in Connecticut enjoying life with her amazing and loving new mom and dad.

And Then There is This...

Dogs and humans alike are hosts to bacteria, viruses and yeast, about 600 can be found in each of their mouths, some of these organisms can transfer from a dog to humans. Dr. Leni Kaplan, at Cornell University College of Veterinarian Medicine says, "When dog saliva touches intact human skin, especially in a healthy person, it is extremely unlikely to cause any problems, as there will be very little absorption through the skin." However, Kaplan noted these pathogens can be more easily absorbed through mucous membranes of a person's nose, mouth and eyes. Most people will not have a reaction to dog kisses, but those with compromised health conditions should avoid contact with a dog's mouth.



In ancient Egypt, dogs were used in healing practices since they believed that dog licks help heal injury or cure disease. Fijian fishermen also allowed their dogs to lick their wounds. And the French have a saying, "langue de chien, langue de médecin" which translates to "a dog's tongue, a doctor's tongue."



Advocate for Pets

Arden Moore, is a Master Pet First Aid/CPR Instructor, founder of Pet First Aid 4 U, author of 25 books about pets, and is also the host of the podcast *Pet Life Radio*. Moore says she welcomes the occasional kiss from her dogs and cat and returns their kisses by kissing the tops of their heads. Moore said, "Pets, just like people, crave attention and affection. As long as I remain healthy and my pets stay healthy, I will take this 'risk' and accept their kisses."



Humor Unleashed

During an interview with *Wired Magazine*, President Obama, laughingly touched on canine kisses and stated this about the *First Dogs*, "I still don't let Sunny and Bo lick me, because when I walk them on the side lawn, some of the things I see them picking up and chewing on, I don't want that. man."