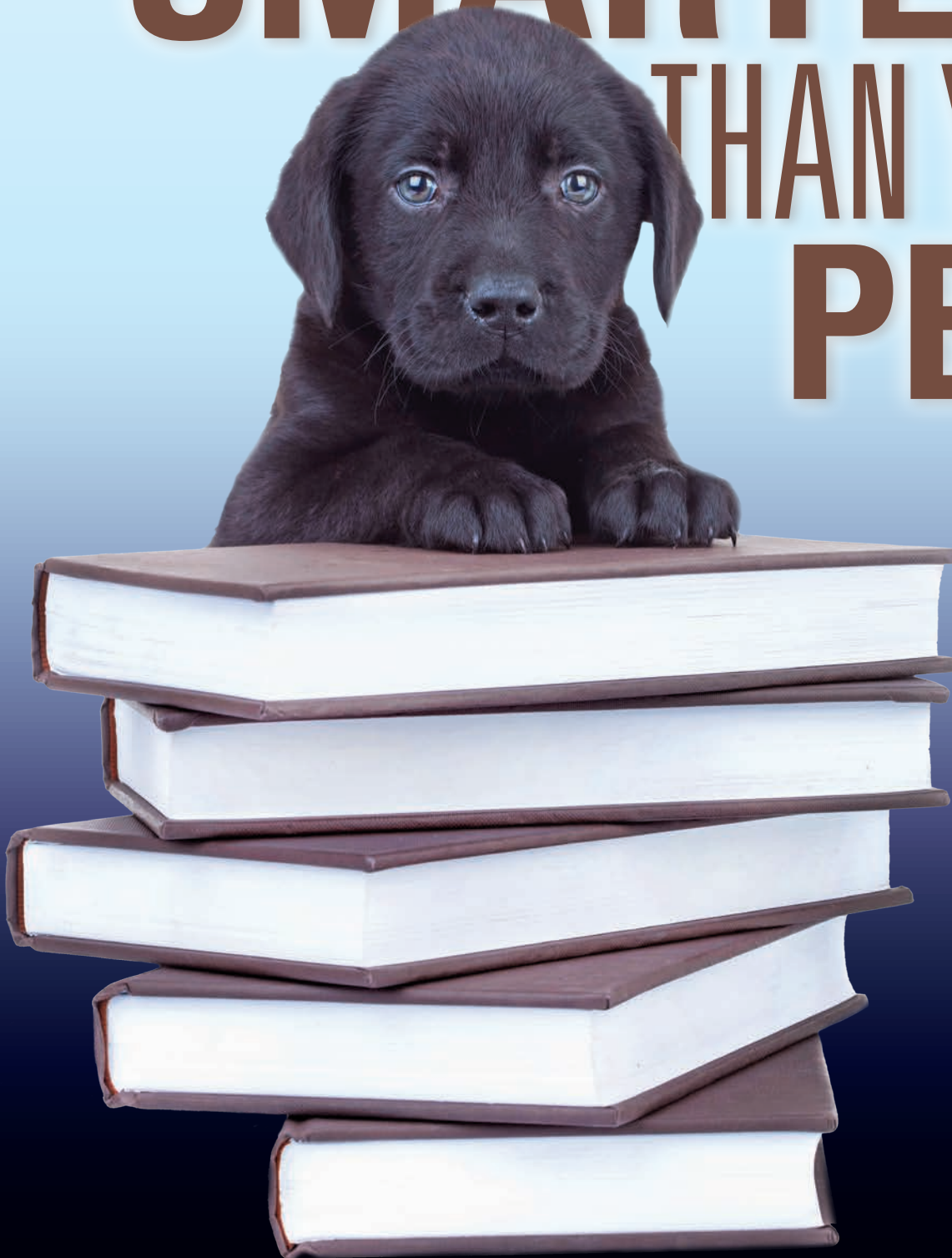


ARE YOU SMARTER THAN YOUR PET?

2 x 60 HD



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CONTACT

Tom Koch, Vice President
PBS International
10 Guest Street
Boston, MA 02135 USA

TEL: 617-300-3893
FAX: 617-779-7900

jtkoch@pbs.org
pbsinternational.org

Are You Smarter Than Your Pet? tests the assumption that humans are the smartest species on Earth by pitting a range of animals against people in special challenges. The two episodes challenge humans and animals to incredible feats in order to discover who has the best memory, spatial awareness, problem-solving skills, and navigational prowess in a showdown between the intelligence of humans and the untapped abilities of animals operating out of their normal zone. The results are surprising, hilarious, and often extraordinary.

The first episode features a pigeon with an eye for art, a fish that can hunt for buried treasure, and a race to the center of a maze between a rat and a taxi driver. But who will come out on top and be crowned the smartest—man or beast? London taxi drivers are renowned for having a heightened sense of direction, cultivated by years of navigating through the sprawling streets of the city. In fact, scientists have found that the part of the brain involved in spatial memory, the posterior hippocampus, is larger in taxi drivers to accommodate this acquired skill. To test their skills, rat and cabbie will each compete to find their way through a maze.

Also in this episode, *Are You Smarter Than Your Pet?* asks how well people know their pets. Do you think you could pick your dog out of a lineup faster than your pooch could recognize you? The scientists at the Clever Dog Lab in Vienna have discovered that dogs are able to recognize their owners not only by smell, sound, and gestures, but by as little as a pair of eyes in a black and white photograph. To test the theory, a human and her dog dress as if they were going to rob a bank—with thick balaclavas covering most of their faces. Then the dog and her owner face a challenging recognition test.

The second episode introduces an art-appreciative pigeon, a savvy sea lion, and a puzzle-solving parrot. Move aside *Ocean's Eleven*—if you want to extract the loot from a locked safe, maybe it's not Brad Pitt you need, but a parrot! In this film, a 4-year-old Goffin cockatoo (a type of parrot) is tasked to solve a complex five-stage puzzle of bolts, pins, wheels, and levers to unlock the safe door and get his claws on a treat. It's a race against the clock, and he is up against a group of 4-year-old humans.

Are You Smarter Than Your Pet? also explores whether a dolphin can imitate a human. Dolphins can be trained to perform tricks, and they can be trained to copy what another swimmer does—whether that swimmer is another dolphin or a human. But how good are they when compared to a team of human synchronized swimmers? And what if all the contenders are blindfolded?

Are You Smarter Than Your Pet? is packed with entertaining revelations, mind boggling experiments, and facts that will not only shed light on animal intelligence, but make us see our own brains in an entirely new way.

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CREDITS

Producers, Directors: Sam Roubicek, Tom Weston

Producer: Octavia Hartland

Executive Producers: Dan Oliver, Justine Kershaw, Mark Dyson

Photo: Viorel Sima for shutterstock.com



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