

Hannah Compton
Doggie Senses: The Super Nose

This project is the result of my dogs, Sammy and Bella, just smelling things. They inspired me to learn more about that giant, cold, wet, thing on the tip of their muzzle. The initial idea was to determine what types of scents made dogs do different things. Some success with meat, being the favorite smell to the dogs, led to the actual conclusion of this experiment. Favorite scents were determined by holding a dog in an empty room with three bags: one filled with meat, one filled with fruit, and one filled with a favorite toy, or a scarf recently worn by that dogs' owner. The dog was let in the room for a minute, and then let out of the room. Observations were taken during that time. It was then concluded that seven of ten dogs preferred the smell of meat over the smell of fruit or a toy. Two of the dogs vocalized when smelling the fruit. This raised the suspicion that maybe their owners perfume smelt fruity; therefore they were excited when the smell triggered a memory of their owner. Yet this suspicion only works in the case that both dogs used toys for the animal/human scents. If they had vocalized at their owners scarf, that would have confirmed the suspicion. Thankfully, the input into this project had a greater output. It was easy to see why this was one of the highest recommended experiments I have found.