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# The Eyesight of Dogs

The howling of dog in the dark believed to be signs of its ability to see things unseen by humans would make your hair stand on ends. Vision is generally believed to be the least sensitive sense of a dog. Our four legged friends are noted to have excellent hearing abilities and ultra sensitive noses but vision of dogs is inferior to that of its human friends.

[So how do dogs see?](#) In spite of the similarity in genetics, dogs' vision is different from humans'. Before studies have been conducted on how dogs see, it was a common belief that dogs can see only whites and greys. Studies have proven that dogs can see colors but unlike humans that have trichromatic vision, dogs are noted to have dichromatic vision. While humans can see the whole spectrum, dogs can see only some colors in the spectrum. Studies conducted on canine vision have speculated that these animals can only see various shades of yellow and blue. Dogs' eyes do not have the cones sensitive to red and orange colors thus Fido and company cannot distinguish the varying shades of these colors.

Dogs are known to have better vision in the dark. This ability to see better in the dark is the reason why dogs make dependable guards and hunters. Dogs can unerringly capture prey even in the dark because of their incredible night vision. The protective personality as well as the incredible ability to see in the dark makes dogs relievable watch and guard dogs. Dogs have an excellent night vision because they can dilate their pupils more thereby letting in more light.

Behind the dog's retina is a layer of reflective cells known as tapetum lucidum that has the function of reflecting light so that object the dog see in the dark would appear to be well lighted. Dogs have a more accurate and developed wide angle vision and peripheral vision. This vision gives the dog the ability to see even the slightest distant movement.

Dogs though find it hard to focus on the shape of object because they are known to have low visual acuity. These animals can detect movements at a distance but they would not be able to distinguish the shape of the moving object. Dog can see distant movements but objects that can be seen clearly by humans as far as 75 feet will be seen by dogs clearly if the object is only 20 feet away

Dogs indeed see the world in a different manner. Dogs have a rather inferior vision (as compared to our vision) but this kind of vision is just sufficient for their needs.

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