# Dogs Can Imitate Human Actions Over Video Calls, Study Finds



Researchers at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest have discovered that dogs can imitate human actions, even over video calls. The study, led by Claudia Fugazza, involved training two dogs—Tara, a male Golden Retriever, and Franc, a female Labrador Retriever—to replicate human actions such as spinning in circles, knocking over bottles, and walking backwards. This training was conducted using life-size video projections of the dogs' owners, who demonstrated actions remotely before verbally instructing the dogs to "Do it!"

The experiment tested the dogs' skill at imitating actions from three different camera angles: frontal, side, and overhead. The results showed that the dogs could successfully imitate actions observed from frontal and side perspectives, which are common in their daily experiences. However, they encountered difficulties with actions demonstrated from an overhead view.

Fugazza emphasized that this innovative method can enhance research into various cognitive abilities in dogs and potentially other species. The findings aim to deepen the understanding of how dogs perceive and interpret human actions, contributing to the broader study of human-animal relationships.