

# Fun Experiments to Do with Your Pets!

## 1) Be “Paw”sitive: Is your pet right- or left-handed?

Find out if your cat or dog is a righty or a southpaw.

Use a piece of paper and, over the course of a week, tally which hand your pet uses for specific activities.

According to *National Geographic*, female cats tend to be right-handed more often than males. The same has been found among humans, which has led scientists to believe this preference is linked to sex hormones. A 1991 study at Ataturk University revealed that 50 percent of domestic cats are right-pawed, 10 percent are ambidextrous, having no preference for one paw over the other, and 40 percent favor their left paw. Additionally, while 90 percent of humans are right-handed and 10 percent left-handed, dogs are about 50/50 when it comes to left-versus-right hand preference, as stated in a *Psychology Today* blog post.

Does your furball fit the mold?

**For Cats:** Take note of which front paw your cat uses **first** to walk up or down the stairs, step into the litter box, reach for a treat or grab a toy. After a week, count the number of times your cat used its left paw first versus its right. The one used more often is the dominant paw. Not all cats have a preference, and it is possible that they prefer to use a certain paw for certain activities. Take note of your cat’s idiosyncrasies!

**For Dogs:** Do the same week-long tally that you would with a cat. Note which paw the dog uses first to shake, to reach for you when it’s on playing on its back and you step out of view, to scratch the door with when s/he wants to go in or out, and to retrieve a treat you hide under a dog toy or piece of furniture.

So, what paws do your fur babies prefer to use? How many members of your household are right-handed versus left-handed?

Sources: <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/01/animals-pets-cats-right-handed/>  
<http://mentalfloss.com/article/52812/are-cats-and-dogs-right-or-left-handed-too>  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/canine-corner/201307/dogs-left-paw-preferences-may-be-different-emotionally>

## 2) Color Theory – Does Your Pet Have A Favorite Color?

**For Cats:** pick 3 - 5 identical cat toys, such as catnip mice, and present them to your cat. Note which one the cat chooses. Repeat this experiment 2-3 times a day for a couple of days. Tally the results and see what color your feline favors.

**For Dogs:** using two people, have Person One put the dog on a leash or harness and bring the dog into another room so s/he won’t see what Person Two is up to. In another room, have

Person Two set up five treats behind five different colored pieces of construction paper (use blue, green, yellow, red and purple). Have the person holding the dog release the pup, and note which color paper the dog takes the treat from. Now repeat the process. Replace the treats, switch up the order of the pieces of paper, and let Fido rip! Do this 5 – 10 times (it can be over the span of a couple of days) and see if you can determine which color your canine cares for most.

Sources: <http://classroom.synonym.com/science-projects-cats-7960613.html>  
<https://sciencing.com/ideas-science-fair-projects-dogs-7937107.html>