



Doggy Diva

— The Guide —

For dogs who know they're fabulous.



Honoring: _____

Your Doggy Diva



The Honored Dog

There is a particular kind of knowing that happens between a person and their dog. It doesn't come from training, or from anything you can find in a book (or even taking a quiz).

It comes from paying attention — from noticing the specific way your dog engages with the world, the things that light them up, and the way they love. It comes from seeing them, not just living with them.

Most pet parents share that knowing. They just may not have the words for it. The Honored Dog™ experience exists to give you those words. Not to tell you who your dog is — you already know that. But to offer you a language that finally matches what you've felt from the beginning. A way of describing, celebrating, and relishing in the relationship you have formed with your four-legged best friend.

Think of this as recognition. This guide puts language to what you've already been noticing—how they engage, what drives them, what settles them. As you move through it, the moments you've shared take on more meaning. **The written reflections** bring your observations forward. And over time, they become something you can return to, helping you **remember** your dog and the experiences you shared.

The PDF guide is a condensed version whereas the full experience lives online at HonoredDog.com/Your-Pack where your reflections will be saved in your account.

This is not a training guide. It is not a behavior manual. It is a recognition — of your dog, of what they bring to your life, and of the unmistakable personality that makes them entirely and completely themselves.

Welcome

to the pack

Welcome to The Honored Dog. You and your dog are now part of our pack—a community of people who share the profound love for their companion animals.

My name is Kimberly Jo, and I'm the creator of The Honored Dog. If you're anything like me, you love your dog immensely. So much that it's impossible to express. So much that it hurts sometimes. The days pass by too quickly. And before you know it, your beloved companion is aging more than you care to acknowledge. As the years pass, we want to make the most of our time with them – to give them a life that reflects how deeply they are loved.

This is why I created The Honored Dog. Because we all want to love our dogs fully, a feat only possible if we give ourselves permission to truly feel it.

The concept of The Honored Dog™ Pack Personalities began as a way to help customers envision colors for the custom crochet dog sweaters I create. Within weeks of recognizing Josie as a Social Butterfly and Murphy, a Bossy Pants, I began witnessing my own relationships with them shifting into a more connected, compassionate, and grounded way of being together.

Unwanted frustrations began to fade every time I reminded myself that they were simply being a Social Butterfly and Bossy Pants. In the end, that's all that I could ask for. After all, they were embodying the very traits that make up their personalities. Perfect manifestations of joy and determination. Perfect manifestations of love.

*Kimberly Jo
(& the Westies)*

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Doggy Diva

Loyalty here is not
broadcast.
It belongs to the
chosen few — and when
you've been chosen,
you feel it.



A note on the name: "Doggy Diva" is a personality, not a gender. The name belongs to any dog who carries themselves like they already own the room.

Introduction

Poised and particular, Doggy Divas don't demand attention. They attract it.

Fergie had an unmistakable confidence commonly found among Doggy Divas. Unable to resist the temptation of rolling in something questionable, she always managed to recover with ease, walking away with her head held high. While her external appearance didn't always match her confidence, she sold it well.

Some Divas may look like they just stepped off the runway. But supermodel status is never a requirement. That's because Divas don't have to act fancy to *be fancy*. They simply embody it. Which is why they can get away with pretty much anything. And frequently do.

While most dogs are an easy read, the Doggy Diva is more of a mystery; at times leaving loved ones wondering if they are leading a second life. Independent by nature, they are often fine doing their own thing. They have their selected spots, and favorite toys, and don't require much external validation or acknowledgement.

Your Doggy Diva

Strength

Perceptive

The Doggy Diva is emotionally sophisticated in a way that can genuinely surprise people. While they may appear unbothered, they are *always* aware of who and what is going on around them. Being so highly-sensitive to their surroundings, Doggy Divas naturally have preferences, which are made unmistakably known.



Charlotte: Doggy Diva

Core Traits



Poised,
Discerning,
& Particular

Social Focus



Selective
Connection
or Independence

Motivation



Respect
& Alignment
with Standards

Loyalty



Devotion to
Trusted Person



Fergie: OG Doggy Diva

Looking down her snout at mama, Fergie had a way of making Kimberly Jo feel like she never quite measured up to her Westie's standards. Yesterday's car ride; not long enough. The new dog bed with pink fur lining; not quite big enough. Last night's dinner; wasn't at all like mamas ribeye hot off the grill.

Doggy Divas move through the world with a quiet certainty that is entirely their own. They observe before they engage. And by observe, we mean judge.

Loyalty

Emotionally sophisticated, Doggy Divas pay close attention to social cues.



Baisy: Doggy Diva

Engagement

Engagement, for the Doggy Diva, begins not with a greeting, but with observation. What follows their assessment is intentional. When your Doggy Diva decides to engage, it means you've passed a test that you were entirely unaware you were taking.

Fergie arrived in a space, taking it in before moving forward. Quietly assessing the physical and emotional surroundings, she scanned people and places; reading the room before deciding if the room was worth her time.

Even in the comfort of her own home, Fergie preferred the cushy bedding in the back room over a sunlit afternoon birdwatching by the pool. Mama often tried to draw her out, unsuccessfully, not because she was timid. Quite the opposite. Confident in herself, Fergie knew what she liked. And effort was not on the list.

Connections

Engagement

Building a relationship with a Doggy Diva isn't about drawing them in. It's about being someone they can move toward.



Engagement Style

Observant & Selective

Poised, particular, and naturally self-directed, the Doggy Diva engages on their terms. Rather than moving toward interactions, they assess first; reading tone, energy, and consistency before deciding where they want to place their attention

Observant

Fergie's circle was small by design. More interested in nap time than playtime, she chose memorable moments wisely. When company was around, Fergie selected people and events that truly deserved her time. Understanding the Doggy Diva starts with a simple shift: what looks like distance isn't necessarily disinterest. Often, it's discernment.

Self-direction

How Doggy Divas Connect:	
Attention Style	Selective: attention is earned, not given freely
Connection Style	Intentional and deep. Fully present
Engagement Style	Selective: Prefer a deep connection with one over many surface connections
Initiating	Waits: does not initiate with unfamiliar people prefers to be approached on their own terms
Social Seeking	Chooses a circle carefully
Loyalty	Devoted only to trusted people

Discernment

Relationships

Engagement

While they unapologetically choose certain people over others, their targets feel the depth of their devotion almost instantly. After all, being selected is an honor worth acknowledging.

Quality

The Doggy Diva depends on authenticity to form a trusting relationship. While every connection is different, they all rely on stability and consistency. That may look like sharing space without applying pressure, moving at a steady pace, and letting them come closer on their own terms.

Given their high level of awareness and perception, they notice inconsistency before you've named it. Which is why it's best to allow time for the relationship to build naturally, without pressure.

Over time, the relationship with a Doggy Diva is the reward for repetition, patience, understanding, and acceptance of their diva behaviors.



Baisy: Doggy Diva

Reflection

When Doggy Divas choose to engage, it's often intentional and earned. When was the last time you felt a shift from distance to connection, and what made it feel meaningful to you?

How Doggy Divas Relate

New Space	Observes before engaging – reads the room before committing
Unfamiliar People	Reserved and watchful. Waits to be approached vs reaching out
Building Bonds	Slow to open, deeply loyal once trust is established
In a Group	Prefers quality over quantity – does not need the whole room
Social Energy	Reserved – does not give energy to everyone; reserves it for the chosen

Chosen

When they feel
safe, you'll know.
When something
shifts, you'll know
that too.



@_meetthelittles_

Sydney: Doggy Diva

Expression

Expression, for the Doggy Diva, is often subtle. You'll see it in the way they settle into a room, the way they hold space without needing to fill it, and the way they stay close without making a production of it. Their presence becomes its own kind of communication; reserved, quiet, and steady.

The Doggy Diva internalizes their emotions, often offering only gentle shifts in demeanor. Their expression is frequently limited to a shift that can be observed through stillness or a slight withdrawal or recalibration. Knowing them well enough to notice these subtle changes signifies the depth and magnitude of your relationship.

Emotions

Expression

Emotional Responses & Needs	
Sensitivity	Sensitive to tone and respect – delivery matters as much as content
Expression	Comfort is expressed by peacefulness and ease. Discomfort expressed through withdrawal or seeking privacy
Grounding	Grounded by predictability, respect, and calmed by confidence of a trusted person
Environment	Highly sensitive and attuned to subtle shifts. Hyper-aware of tension, tone, and unspoken change
Emotions	Quiet depth, sensitive to surroundings, highly responsive. Does best with trusted person who respects individuality

Tone

Trust

Fergie was the first to know when things were off, her signals hard to ignore once Kimberly Jo knew what to look for. "Where's Fergie?" Was usually the question that cued any need for alarm. Highly perceptive, Fergie was averse to any challenge to her balance.

Sensitive

She was frequently triggered by any shift in her environment; Loud noises, distant storms, and even the most subtle shift in conversation would send her into or under the nearest bed

The Doggy Diva's profound perception and awareness shape both their expression and their needs. Rather than escalating, they often communicate discomfort through withdrawal, setting boundaries in a way that feels natural to them. They are grounded by predictability, respect, and calm confidence from a trusted person.

Withdrawal

Reflection

When was the first time you noticed your dog setting a boundary by creating space? What triggers this behavior and what can you do to honor their boundaries?

Energy

Expression

As with everything else in their world, the Doggy Diva manages energy with intention. What may look like low energy, stubbornness, or disinterest is often discernment used to self-regulate. When they do engage, they bring their full attention to the people and moments they have chosen. And then, when it's time, they return to stillness. This downtime is necessary for this highly-perceptive dog to restore and return again when they are ready.

Restore

Over time, their balance becomes easier to read. As their rhythms become familiar, their behavior feels less mysterious, and easier to understand.

Physical Presence



Poised, Composed
& Unscattered

Focus Style



Deep
& Concentrated

Vocalization Style



Quiet
Communicate non-verbally

Watching for Signals

Whenever Kimberly Jo came upon Fergie shaking, it was before any noticeable sign of change in their environment. She quickly learned that the source would present itself eventually; most often in the form of thunder. Sometimes hours later. Unfortunately, once things got to that stage, Fergie was inconsolable. Time, medication, and the passing of the Arizona monsoon were the only remedies.

Boundaries

Over time, and through much trial and error, Kimberly Jo learned Fergie's signals. Slight changes in her presence were key indicators; rooting and crawling under blankets, retreating to odd places not normally chosen. Each signal, a sign that a storm was brewing, along with her anxiety. When storms were forecast, if Fergie's anxiety was caught early enough, medication could be given in time to calm her before her anxiety escalated.

Other remedies included playing music or TV, slipping on a weighted sweater or Thundershirt, and when possible, moving her somewhere more peaceful.

Calm

Stress Response

Expression

When under stress, the Doggy Diva tends to go quiet. They may withdraw to a familiar spot, become less responsive, or simply make themselves harder to find. In many instances, this isn't just distance. It's self-regulation.

Space

Other times, they may show signs of distress through more typical expressions; a tension in the body, a restlessness that doesn't resolve, a dog who cannot seem to settle no matter the conditions.

Learn their signals. Respect their space.

Where another dog might need contact or engagement to find their way back, the Doggy Diva is more apt to find their way through stillness. Space, often doesn't feel the same way it does for the other dogs. Which changes everything about how you show up for them in these moments.

Learn the early signals. Before full withdrawal comes a quieter shift. A change in posture, a move to an unusual spot, a stillness that feels different from their everyday calm. These are the moments that matter. The earlier you catch them, the more you can do.

Don't follow. Don't chase. When they retreat, respect the retreat. Pursuing them into their space, attempting to draw them out, or offering comfort they didn't ask for will escalate what you're trying to resolve. Their withdrawal is communication. Honor it.

Reduce what's in the environment. Lower the noise. Soften the energy in the room. Music at a low volume, the television as quiet company, or simple stillness — anything that reduces stimulation and signals that the environment is safe.

Let them return on their own terms. When they're ready, they'll come back. That return — a slow approach, a quiet presence nearby — is the signal they've moved through it. Receive it without fanfare. Calm acknowledgment is enough.

Avoidant

Comfort

Coping with Stress

First Stress Response	Withdraws – tightens body language and pulls back from engagement
Behavioral Shift in Stress	Resistant and avoidant — may refuse interaction or shut down
What Escalates Stress	Harsh tone, disrespect, or forced interaction with unfamiliar people
What Helps	Space and quiet — being left alone to regulate on their own terms
Recovery	Returns when ready — don't rush it

Thriving
is all about living
life on their terms.



Kimberly Jo, Dudley, & OG Doggy Diva Fergie

Thriving

While Fergie didn't seek out attention, she loved being seen. Often donning her pink "sunnies," Fergie loved her downtown walks with mama and brother Dudley where she could strut her stuff for all to see. Whether making their way through crowds of business people on their midday break, or enjoying a riverside concert in the park, Fergie basked in the attention of onlookers. And those who dared to comment or approach were sometimes rewarded with eye contact or quite possibly a paw; though personal contact was reserved for the elite group of individuals worthy of interaction.

Thriving, for the Doggy Diva, is all about life on their terms; engagement where there is interest, and solitude where they need space. Thriving, for them, comes from being adored by those who matter, and admired at a comfortable distance by the rest.

Fulfillment

Thriving

Authenticity

The Doggy Diva is reading you constantly; not your words, but your energy. They have a quiet, uncanny ability to distinguish genuine calm from performed calm, real confidence from borrowed confidence.

Energy

Consistency

Your Doggy Diva settles into patterns they can rely on. Knowing how you respond—and what your energy carries from one moment to the next—helps them feel more at ease.

Respect

Since the Doggy Diva is so particular and perceptive, respect plays an integral role in forming and upholding relationships. They respond to respect for their boundaries, their space, and respect for their needs. Give them this respect, and the relationship is bound to grow deeper.



Harper & Sydney

@_meetthelittles_

Respect their peace. Create a stable environment that welcomes connection by arriving in a calm, unhurried manner.

Respect their preferences. Honor their chosen toys, habits, and spots to create a sense of safety and foster trust between the two of you.

Respect their “no.” When you honor their boundaries, a Doggy Diva will be more apt to trust you and reach out when they are ready.

Let them initiate. Give them their desired space and allow them to initiate contact. By giving them the choice, you build trust and deepen the relationship.

Space

When the Doggy Diva withdraws, don't chase. Give the Doggy Diva their space and allow them to come back to the people they've chosen — on their own terms, in their own time.

Choices

Security

Security, for the Doggy Diva, is tangible. A place. A person. A routine that tells them everything is as it should be. When they have it, they are better able to settle.

Routine

Acceptance

Motivation

Thriving

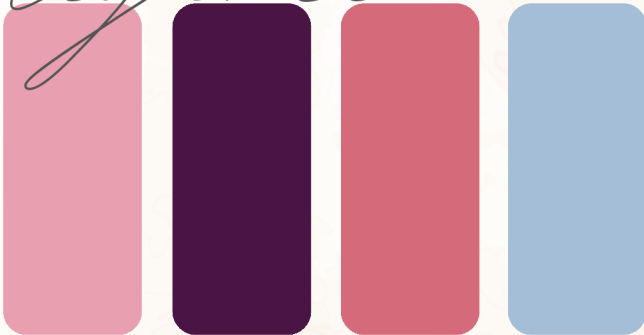
Purpose. Inclusion.

Some dogs need a job. Some need a crowd. Some need to be in the middle of everything. For the Doggy Diva, motivation, comes from within. And it shows in the quiet, consistent way they move through the world on their own terms.

The Doggy Diva knows what they like, what they want, and what is worth their time. When something aligns, they engage. When it doesn't, they wait. Not out of stubbornness, but out of an inner steadiness.

Their self-direction and independence require you to create space for them; space that allows them to exist in their own element and engage when they feel it's right. A healthy relationship with this dog requires you to be aware and read them. Set them up to come to you on their terms. Doing so promotes a meaningful connection that isn't forced, but flows, and grows, naturally.

Elegance



Colors that are elegant without trying.

What colors reflect your Doggy Diva?

It's natural to choose colors we love. But when we pause and ask, "What colors feel like my dog?" we allow their look to reflect their personality

The Doggy Diva palette: vibrant and soft pinks, timeless purples, rose gold, and just a hint of shimmer.

Shimmer

Respect

Reflection

What does your Doggy Diva's self-direction look like, and how does it show up in your relationship?

Your Relationship

Ideal Environments & Interactions:	
Ideal Environment	Predictable, calm, and structured – with space for retreat when needed
Leadership Style	Calm, confident, and respectful – responds to authority that earns it
Social Needs	Deep one-on-one connection – a trusted inner circle over a large group
What Unlocks Them	Security – once feeling safe, devotion is absolute

Quiet

Consistency. Respect.

Your relationship with a Doggy Diva isn't built through constant interaction. It's built through how you show up.

Presence

Your Doggy Diva notices everything; your tone, your pace, your presence. They don't respond to pressure or performance. They respond to what feels real.

When your approach is consistent, grounded, and respectful of their space, something settles.

Your relationship builds in the quiet moments, in shared presence, and the consistency you bring.

Over time, what may have once felt selective reveals itself as intentional. And what you have with your dog becomes something steady, mutual, and deeply aligned.

Connection

Reflection

What is one way you want to honor your relationship with your Doggy Diva moving forward?

At a Glance

Doggy Diva

Identity	Connections	Stress Signals
Poised & discerning	Intentional, deep bonds	Withdraws & goes quiet
Highly particular	Selective attention or independence	Body language tightens
Relationship-centered	Waits to be approached	Refuses interaction
Security-driven	Loyal to chosen few	Guards the circle
Standard-holder	Perceptive to intonation	Needs space to recover

Offer

- Consistency and predictability
- Calm, confident leadership
- Respect for rhythms
- A trusted inner circle
- Quiet space to decompress

Avoid

- Harsh tone or raised voice
- Forced interactions
- Chaotic environments
- Ignoring clear signals
- Unpredictable routines

Remember

- Withdrawal is communication
- Selectivity is not coldness
- Earned loyalty is total
- Delivery matters
- Space is a gift, not rejection



In Their Words

On Attention

"I see everyone. I choose you."

On Standards

"It's not that I'm difficult.
It's that I know what I like."

On Space

"Give me a moment. I'll come back. I
always come back."

About The Author

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Kimberly Jo DeVault, founder of The Honored Dog™, guides you in exploring your dog's personality on a deeper level.

After several years developing and delivering impactful, interactive humane education courseware for the Arizona Humane Society, Kimberly Jo went on to become a personal, team, and leadership coach. Her experience, education, and relationships with companion animals shaped her understanding of how dogs think, respond, relate, and form connections.

Her approach draws from her education in developmental psychology, a Master's Degree in journalism, and nearly 20 years coaching and facilitating leaders and teams. Together, her experiences inform the way she helps people recognize patterns, understand what they're seeing, and connect more intentionally with their dogs.

Over the past two decades, Kimberly has raised four West Highland Terriers; Fergie, Dudley, Murphy, and Josie; each with a completely distinct personality. What began as a way to help customers choose colors for custom WestieWear® sweaters evolved into something more: a clear pattern in how dogs show up, connect, and move through the world. Those patterns ultimately became the four Honored Dog personality profiles: the Doggy Diva, the Goodest Boy/Girl, the Bossy Pants, and the Social Butterfly.

Kimberly lives in Connecticut with Murphy and Josie. Fergie and Dudley are deeply missed; their presence living on through The Honored Dog™.

Capture Your Reflections



This is what it means to honor your dog; to know and love them for who they are. Scan the QR code below to begin capturing their story.

HonoredDog.com/Your-Pack