



Goodest Boy

— The Guide —

For dogs who lead with their hearts.



Honor your Goodest Boy for who he is,
so you can make the most of the time you have together.

Honoring : _____
Your Goodest Boy



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. It comes 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. A recognition of your dog, of what they bring to your life, and of the unmistakable personality that makes them entirely and completely themselves.



Because every dog deserves to be known.

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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Goodest Boy

The Goodest Boy is comfortable anywhere, generous with his devotion, and approaches others with genuine friendliness.

Introduction

Grounded, devoted, and attuned, Goodest Boys can do no wrong. Literally. They just can't do it. Content to follow the rules, regardless of whether or not they would get caught breaking them, Goodest Boys wait patiently for life to play out the way it is supposed to.

The Honored Dog's original Goodest Boy, Dudley, was grateful to be along for the ride, supporting everyone else along the way. Continually reading the room, he knew when anything was off, and was quick to alert everyone in the house if things were awry. Frequently following like a shadow, he was a grounding presence in even the most unsettling moments, and loved fully and intently at every opportunity.

Goodest Boys are often underestimated, the ease in their presence so easy to take for granted. Yet at the end of the day, we look back and hope we did well by them.

Meet Dudley

Goodest Boy

Dudley came into Kimberly Jo’s life as a rescue at just two years old. He arrived already knowing the rules; and intending to follow every one of them. Though still young, he carried something that felt less like puppyhood and more like wisdom; a quiet, grandfatherly presence in a small Westie body.

The name Dudley fit him perfectly; a nod to Dudley Do-Right, the famously upright hero who always tried to do the right thing. In fourteen years, he never stopped trying.

Duddey's

There was the morning he and Fergie bolted out the front door after a squirrel. In a moment of pure instinct, the rules were forgotten for exactly three seconds. And then Dudley stopped, looked around, and remembered himself. He scurried straight back inside, stationing himself at the threshold to watch as Kimberly Jo retrieved Fergie, who had absolutely no intention of coming home on her own.

That was Dudley. Even when the rules were inconvenient, they were his to follow.

Schnoodie

He and Fergie were by Kimberly Jo’s side for more than a decade; through moves, new jobs, surgeries, and life in its fullest moments. Through it all, Dudley stayed close, steady and attuned. He set the standard for what it means to be a Goodest Boy or Girl. Not because he was perfect, because he always wanted to do his best.



Reflection

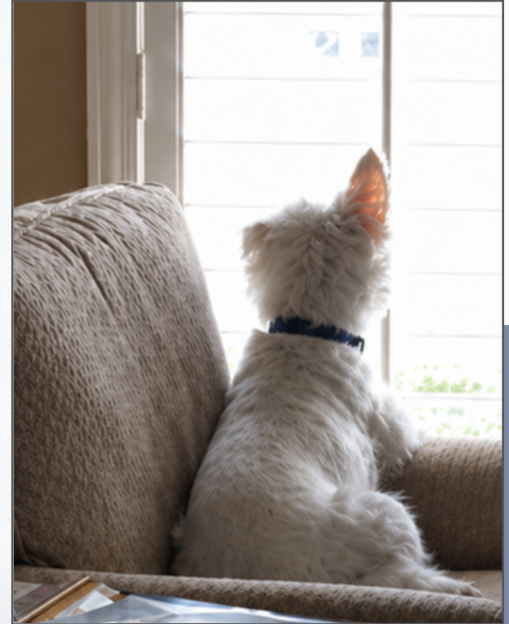
In what ways is your dog similar to the Honored Dog’s original Goodest Boy, Dudley? Capture details below, in a journal, or online at HonoredDog.com/Your-Pack.

Throughout this guide you'll find reflection prompts like this. They're your first look at the deeper work inside the digital Goodest Boy Guide & Workbook — at HonoredDog.com/Your-Pack

Your Goodest Boy

Strength Empathetic

A Goodest Boy paces himself to you. He reads where you are, physically and emotionally, and adjusts without a word being said. You may not even notice it happening. But when you look down, he's there. Just one step behind, he keeps your pace. Exactly where you need him to be.



Core Traits



Steady, devoted,
people-centered

Social Focus



Loyalty
Connection

Motivation



Belonging

Loyalty:



Deep
Complete

Highly attuned to their surroundings, Goodest Boys keep a steady awareness of what's happening around them. Unhurried and at ease, wherever you are becomes their home and in their presence, the entire space softens.

Each morning, Dudley hopped up onto "his chair," nudging the plantation shutters with his snout just enough to survey the neighborhood. Once the slats were set to his liking, he'd settle into position; perched on the armrest where he could comfortably keep watch. His "good ear" stood tall, defining his endearing silhouette, while his floppy ear fell softly to the side. Since he was a rescue, no one ever knew what had happened. But years later, that unmistakable silhouette would inspire the logos for both The Honored Dog and WestieWear® dog sweaters.

Steadily devoted,
Goodest Boys
pay close attention
to the people
they love.



Engagement

When the Goodest Boy enters a space, he feels the room, the people in it, and finds his place there. He possesses a subtle charisma that effortlessly draws attention and admiration.

It is through his charisma that the Goodest Boy connects with others.

In this section, you'll take a closer look at how your Goodest Boy engages; with you, with others, and with the world. In it, you may find quiet patterns you always felt but never quite had the words for.

Connections

Engagement

Engagement Style

Steady, Present, & Inclusive

Goodest Boys have a way of winning people over without effort. Their gentle charisma welcomes friends and strangers alike. Meanwhile, their quiet awareness leaves everyone a bit more comfortable in their presence.

Whether surveying the dog park or out on a daily walk, Dudley regularly drew in admirers who he welcomed into any setting. His gentle and equally secure demeanor was easy to mistake as simplicity. When in fact, as with all Goodest Boys, such steadiness and inclusivity required a keen awareness of the world around him.

With an effortless way of including themselves in what's happening without disruption, Goodest Boys are often overlooked. Their presence too easily taken for granted by even those who love them most.

A steady presence
too easily
taken for granted.

Presence

How Goodest Boys Connect

Attention Style	Fully present — gives complete, unhurried attention to the people they love
Connection Style	Deep and consistent — chosen people receive steady, unwavering investment
Engagement Style	Steady, present, and inclusive — welcomes everyone, but centers always on their person
Initiating	Follows — stays close, finds you, never far; approaches newcomers warmly
Social Seeking	People-oriented — content wherever their person is, happiest beside them
Loyalty	Complete — given freely, fully committed, lifelong

Connection

Relationships

Engagement

How Goodest Boys Relate	
New Space	Settles quickly — reads the room and adjusts immediately to match the energy
Unfamiliar People	Warm and open — approaches with genuine friendliness; no agenda, no guardedness
Building Bonds	Quick to connect, deeply committed once trust is given
In a Group	Comfortable anywhere — happy in a crowd
Social Energy	Generous — gives warmth freely; deepest devotion reserved for the chosen few

Loyal

The Goodest Boy is deeply relationship-driven in a steady, grounding way. With their inner circle, they are deeply loyal. With people they've just met, they are warm and open; friendly without being overwhelming. With other dogs, they carry an easy confidence that tends to settle a room.

Observant

What this relationship asks of you is simple: consistency, presence, and the willingness to notice. Because this dog's love is so steady and so undemanding that it can move through your days quietly. And that is exactly the invitation. To slow down. To receive what has been there, offered freely, every day.

Steady

Reflection

The Goodest Boy's way of connecting is steady, present, and inclusive. Where do you see your dog showing up for his people quietly in moments easily overlooked?

His expression
shows up in how he
follows, settles,
and returns.



Expression

Expression, for the Goodest Boy, begins with connection.

You'll see it in the way he stays near, the way he follows without urgency, the way he settles alongside you as if that's where he's meant to be. Cheerful celebrations and distress all lead to the same end result; closeness to those he loves most. This closeness becomes its own kind of communication.

Recognizing his baseline is the key to connection with your Goodest Boy. It's the difference between missing a quiet signal and catching it early, before it builds into something harder to resolve.

Energy

Expression

While appearing at ease, the Goodest Boy carries emotions beneath the surface. Even the slightest shift can be a sign that something is stirring. The check-in, the slight lean, or their chin resting gently on your knee (usually at just the right moment); can each be emotional signals.

When Kimberly Jo picked up the Westies from doggy daycare one afternoon in late February, Dudley seemed "off." There were no clear signs he was in pain, no obvious way for her to know what was really going on. What looked more like a young boy coming home from school after being bullied was actually a ruptured spleen that could take his life if overlooked.

When that awkward quietness continued after arriving home to familiar surroundings, Kimberly Jo realized this was likely more than a passing sadness. Rather than joining friends for happy hour, she took him to the vet. That evening, Dudley was on an operating table where doctors would remove the ruptured spleen, stopping the internal bleeding that would have taken his life hours later.

Signals

Emotions

Physical Presence



Warm, Close, Soft
Leans, follows, stays near

Focus Style



People-centered
attention always returns to their person

Vocalization Style



Quiet
Communicates through body language more often than sound

What colors reflect their personality?

When we pause and ask, "What colors feel like my dog?", we allow their look to reflect who they are.

Designed with Dudley in mind: muted blues, sage greens, soft grays, and warm taupes capture the natural style of his personality.

Grounding



Stress Response

Expression

Coping with Stress	
First Stress Response	Seeks closeness — moves toward their person and needs physical reassurance
Behavior Shift in Stress	Becomes anxious or clingy — increased following, nudging, checking in
What Escalates Stress	Isolation, unpredictability, or feeling unseen by the people they love
What Helps Resolve Stress	Consistent presence, calm tone, and reassurance that everything is okay
Ideal Recovery Method	Physical closeness and return to routine — resets quickly with connection

The Goodest Boy responds to stress by seeking connection, not retreating from it. They reach toward the people who make them feel safe. That reaching can look like clinginess, following too closely. An anxiety that won't quite resolve.

But the Goodest Boy doesn't show you things without reason. When the dog who absorbs everything, who holds space for everyone else, begins to pace or pant, that's the crack in the stillness. It means something has broken through. And if you know to look for it, you can catch it early.

Reflection

What does your dog look like when overcome by stress?
 What does he need most in those moments?

Safety

The Goodest Boy
doesn't ask for much.

But what they need,
they need consistently.
Presence. Warmth.
A person who shows up
the same way,
every day.



Thriving

Dudley's happy place was spending quality time with his people. A Sunday morning ride to their favorite coffee shop where he got his special treat from the backseat. An evening on the couch with his head on mama's lap while she caught up on their socials. A quiet walk in the woods behind their house, squirrel-spotting at sunset.

These seemingly simple moments hold cherished memories in the making. After all, these are the moments Goodest Boys love most. The easy moments; time spent with you. He doesn't need fanfare. In fact, he prefers it this way. Life, Predictable. Love, Consistent. You, Always.

Fulfillment

Thriving

Being Seen

Being noticed holds quiet significance for the Goodest Boy. Not through praise or attention, but through being seen in the same steady way he has been seeing you. Let him know you see him by acknowledging him with an authentic consistency.

Consistency

The Goodest Boy responds best when the relationship feels consistent and stable; when your presence is reliable and your engagement steady. Over time, this creates a relationship that feels grounded and secure. You may begin to recognize his quiet ways of staying close, and remaining attuned to your presence.

Once you understand what your dog needs and offer it steadily, everything between you becomes warmer, deeper, and simpler.

Safety

Grounded

Belonging

The Goodest Boy doesn't need much to feel content. He appreciates feeling like he belongs; to you, to the home, to the rhythm of daily life. When that sense of place is secure, he is able to settle with a quiet presence.

Closeness

This dog expresses love through proximity. Not demanding, not dramatic; just near. On the same couch. In the same room. A quiet presence that finds you wherever you are, and stays. Closeness is the relationship itself.

Routine

They find comfort in knowing what comes next. The morning walk. The evening settle. The small, repeated moments that tell him the day is unfolding as it should. With predictability, routine becomes the container that holds everything he loves.

Comfort



At a Glance

Goodest Boy

This page offers a clear view of your Goodest Boy at a glance; how they relate, what supports them, and what signals to pay attention to as you build your relationship.

Identity	How They Love	What They Need	Stress Signals
Steady & even-keeled	Loyal to their person	Consistent routines	Shuts down quietly
Deeply Loyal	Warm with everyone	Physical closeness	Withdraws or freezes
People-centered	Peacekeeper in the group	Acknowledgement of effort	Stops eating or engaging
Quietly confident	Devoted, consistent presence	Calm, low-conflict home	Needs calm to recover
Rule-follower	Reads needs intuitively	Calm, low-conflict home	Seeks reassurance

Offer

- Consistent routines
- Warm, clear guidance
- Positive reinforcement
- Physical closeness
- Acknowledgment of their effort

Avoid

- Harsh correction
- Conflict between people they love
- Long stretches alone
- Chaotic environments
- Being ignored when they seek connection

Remember

- Steadiness is love
- Quiet is not indifference
- They absorb your energy
- Acknowledgment matters
- Their goodness is a choice they make daily

In Their Words

On Loyalty

"I'm not going anywhere. I just need you to know that."

On Attention

"I just want to be where you are."

On Goodness

"I follow the rules because I want to get it right"

On Love

"You don't have to win it. You already have it. You always did."

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.

A corporate team and leadership coach, Kimberly also spent several years leading educational programs at the Arizona Humane Society. That work, combined with her own relationships with companion animals, shaped her understanding of how dogs think, respond, and relate; not just in behavior, but in how they 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™.

Your journey is just beginning.



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