

Delving into why dogs are so friendly

By James Gorman, New York Times

Tail-wagging, face-licking, jump-in-your-lap friendliness is what dog lovers adore and cat people scorn. But like it or not, the incredible sociability of many – although not all – dogs is universally recognized. It sets dogs apart from their wild relatives.

Even the most socialized, friendly wolf is cold company compared with a Labrador retriever in full face-licking mode.

But what produces this social exuberance? A team of researchers reported in the journal *Science Advances* that the friendliness of dogs may share a genetic basis with a human disease called Williams-Beuren syndrome.

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