WHY DO DOGS ROLL ON THEIR BACK?

And sometimes in really smelly things!

A loose, wiggly, excited body can mean your dog is feeling happy, comfortable and ready to engage with the world. Rolling can also have other meanings — context matters!



WHY DOGS ROLL & WIGGLE

Seeking affection
A relaxed, wiggly dog may be inviting belly rubs and showing trust.

Scratching an itch
Rubbing on the ground helps reach places paws can't.

Pure joy & fun
Rolling in grass or on the carpet can simply feel great.

Scent rolling
Strong smells can be fascinating; this instinct may relate to masking scent or sharing interesting smells.

Play & strategy
During wrestling, rolling can help a dog avoid bites or play from below.

Appeasement or fear
A stiff, tense or trembling dog with ears pinned back may be asking for space or trying to diffuse tension.





WHY ROLL IN SMELLY THINGS?

THE 'PERFUME' INSTINCT
Dogs may roll in strong odors such as manure or decaying animals. To us it's disgusting; to them it can be fascinating.

FEEL-GOOD FUN
Loose, floppy body language can indicate excitement and enjoyment.

COLLECTING SCENTS
Rolling may help dogs pick up interesting environmental smells.

TIP:

LOOK AT THE WHOLE DOG:
Loose and wiggly can suggest enjoyment. Stiffness, tension, trembling or pinned-back ears may signal discomfort or fear.



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