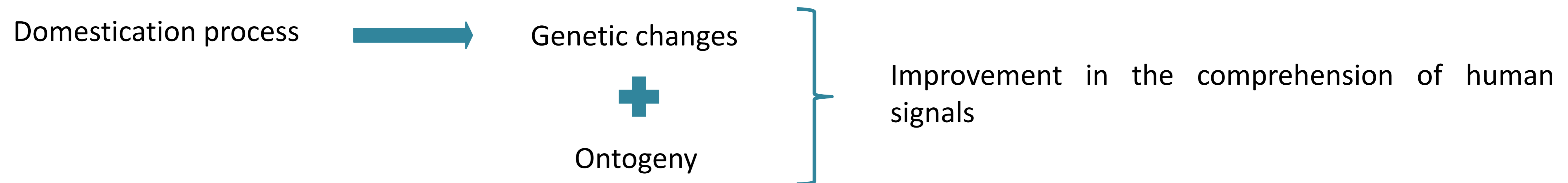


# Bibliographic revision about the efficiency of the interspecific communication between dogs and humans

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The objective of this revision is to find out which are the most studied communication mechanisms between dogs and humans in order to elaborate a summary including all of them and to explain how they should be performed and interpreted.



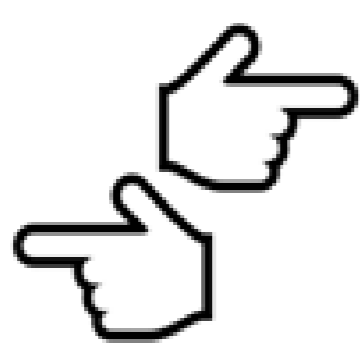


Not only dogs have evolved to understand certain human gestures but also humans did it to understand some dogs' behaviours.

Evidence that dogs can establish social interactions with humans:

- Facial expressions towards humans in order to establish a communicative context.
- Capacity to discern when a human is paying attention to them or not.
- Allelomimetic behaviour with dogs and humans.
- Barking towards dogs but also towards humans.



## Most studied behaviours:

Pointing	Problem solving tasks	Playing signals
		
The response has a learning component but training is not essential. Not a common signal in non-human species	Dogs ask for help with visual and/or physical contact	The two parts must know they are playing. Dogs understand play signals given by humans

## Other interesting behaviours:

- Showing behaviour: it is like pointing but made by the dog directed to human
- Calming signals: dog → human and human → dog

## Misunderstandings:

- In dogs, communication is based on body postures and facial expressions
- In humans, communication is based on direct contact and vocalizations

## Conclusion:

- Interspecific relations between humans and dogs exist
- Adaptation of signals to interspecific communication situations
- A common language is not essential if the two parts have the necessary socio-cognitive skills
- All the studied mechanisms are effective if they are made and interpreted correctly
- Further research is needed in order to study the efficacy of the imitation of calming signals and its effect in hostile dogs. It would help to prove if interspecific communication could be effective in different situations or if it is limited by differences between humans and dogs

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