

# THE NATIONWIDE STANDARD

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## DOG DAYS

The Dog Days are approaching... those hottest, most sultry days of summer. Images come to mind of less and looser clothing, of sipping cold beers and iced lemonade, of doing just about whatever it takes to beat the heat.

The Dog Days of Summer affect everyone, especially dogs. Contrary to popular belief, dogs do sweat. Dogs have sweat glands in their paws, which do release some sweat. But dogs cannot regulate their body temperature through sweating as efficiently as humans do.

Dogs, as we know, pant to regulate body heat, drawing cool air across their tongues into their lungs. So it is not too surprising that during the hottest summer months you'll see dogs slouching or lying on their side with their tongues flopping out of their mouths, panting.

It's no wonder they call this time of the summer the Dog Days.

But that is not how the name came about. Did you think it was?

The Greeks and Romans used the phrase Dog Days to describe the reason for the hottest summer months... the star Sirius. Sirius is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog). It is also the brightest star in the night sky and is known as the Dog Star. These ancient civilizations believed that when Sirius rose just before or with the sunrise that the star added to the heat of the summer months. So they termed part of July and August the Dog Days.

People are good about finding out the reasons behind things, but we're terrific when it comes to making up our own explanations. Sometimes things just feel like they make sense, even when it's wrong.

It seems like it has been a long time since the economy experienced the Dog Days. It's only seen a gentle warming since the crash of 2008. Can you believe it's been that long?

So how are you doing? How's your company doing? Are you slouching and panting like a dog in the summer heat? Or does the fire of Sirius burn in your heart?

It's time to dig into your origins and bring back the heat. There is still much work to be done.

## Did You Know?

- The roots of a dog's teeth are longer than the teeth themselves
- Most domesticated dogs can run up to 20 mph
- Dogs' eyes have evolved to see a greater amount of light than color
- The most popular name for new dogs is Max (sorry Bingo)
- Old dogs can learn new tricks; they have the same capacity to learn as when they were a puppy (just not as much energy)
- An estimated one million dogs are named as beneficiaries in people's wills

*Source: Rosie Harvey*

## Quotes for the Quarter

*"The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too." ~ (Samuel Butler, Notebooks, 1912)*

*"If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them." ~ (Phil Pastoret, Author)*

## Learning from Failure

**Phil:** "The question is: do you have any character at all? And if you want my honest opinion, Bob, you do not; for the simple reason that you don't regret anything yet."

**Bob:** "Are you saying I won't have any character unless I do something I regret?"

**Phil:** "No, Bob. I'm saying you've already done plenty of things to regret. You just don't know what they are. It's when you discover them. When you see the folly in something you've done. And you wish you had to do over. But you know you can't because it's too late. So you pick that thing up and you carry it with you. To remind you that life goes on. The world will spin without you. You really don't matter in the end. Then will you attain character... because honesty will reach out from inside and tattoo itself all across your face."

~ **The Big Kahuna** (1999)

Failure does not lead to success. Experience does not lead to wisdom. Learning from what we have done leads to these things.

All failure is not the same. Some failures are catastrophic and hard to recover from, while others are relatively mild and can even be considered amusing. Some failures have ramifications to many others, while other failures affect only the person who failed.

It's when you can recognize the type of failure that has occurred that you begin to learn from it. According to Jamer Hunt, design expert, there are 6 categories of failure:

### Abject Failure

This is the worst. It has life altering ramifications that you may never fully recover from. It can destroy people's lives, health, jobs, respect, and relationships.

Examples: Hitler's Germany; BP Oil Spill.

### Structural Failure

This one hurts deeply, a disaster, but it doesn't destroy your identity or mission.

Example: 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster.



### Glorious Failure

This is like going out in a beautiful blaze of glory. It can be catastrophic, but there is a certain dignity about it.

Example: Destroying the Galileo space probe in Jupiter's crushing atmosphere to avoid possible contamination of one of Jupiter's moons, Europa, which might contain life.

### Common Failure

Everyday screw ups are usually easy to recover from and not commonly repeated.

Examples: Oversleeping and missing a meeting at work, paying a bill late, burning toast, etc.

### Version Failure

These are small failures that lead to incremental but meaningful improvements over time.

Examples: Windows; evolution.

### Predicted Failure

Going ahead with something you know will fail or will have shortcomings because you are confident you will learn more from its failure than its success.

Example: Learning a musical instrument.

Failures are nothing to beat your chest about, but they are also nothing to beat your head about, either. And while not deserving of an award (except in the most tongue-in-cheek manner), they are their own reward if we choose to identify their severity, understand their impact, take responsibility for their occurrence, and remedy the situation, if applicable.

In essence, learn from them.

**Hours of Operation:**  
Mon – Fri, 8am – 5pm

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### Independence Day, 7/4

*"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves."* ~ Abraham Lincoln

### First Manned Moon Landing, 7/20/1969

*"Whether you think you can or think you can't - you are right."* ~ Henry Ford

### World War I, 7/28/1914

*"Only the dead have seen the end of war."* ~ Plato

### Woman Suffrage, 8/26/1920

*"History is herstory too."* ~ Author Unknown

### World War II, 9/1/1939

*"Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime."* ~ Ernest Hemingway

### Labor Day, 9/5

*"If all the cars in the United States were placed end to end, it would probably be Labor Day Weekend."* ~ Doug Larson

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## Mind Your Manners

Who taught your manners? What did they teach you? Why do they matter? Do you still use them? Do you mind your manners?

Manners are the **Golden Rule** in action: *"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."* In other words, you don't like to be interrupted so don't interrupt someone else. Or, you like when people acknowledge you so acknowledge other people.

The following was taken from the March 2011 issue of **Parents** magazine. How many of these manners do you practice? Are you teaching your children these?

**Manner #1:** When asking for something, say "Please."

**Manner #2:** When receiving something, say "Thank you."

**Manner #3:** Do not interrupt grown-ups who are speaking with each other unless there is an emergency. They will notice you and respond when they are finished talking.

**Manner #4:** If you do need to get somebody's attention right away, the phrase "excuse me" is the most polite way for you to enter the conversation.

**Manner #5:** When you have any doubt about doing something, ask permission first. It can save you from many hours of grief later.

**Manner #6:** The world is not interested in what you dislike. Keep negative opinions to yourself, or between you and your friends, and out of earshot of adults.

**Manner #7:** Do not comment on other people's physical characteristics unless, of course, it's to compliment them, which is always welcome.

**Manner #8:** When people ask you how you are, tell them and then ask them how they are.

**Manner #9:** When you have spent time at your friend's house, remember to thank his or her parents for having you over and for the good time you had.

**Manner #10:** Knock on closed doors – and wait to see if there's a response – before entering.

**Manner #11:** When you make a phone call, introduce yourself first and then ask if you can speak with the person you are calling.

**Manner #12:** Be appreciative and say "thank you" for any gift you receive. In the age of e-mail, a handwritten thank-you note can have a powerful effect.

**Manner #13:** Never use foul language in front of adults. Grown-ups already know all those words, and they find them boring and unpleasant.

**Manner #14:** Don't call people mean names.



**Manner #15:** Do not make fun of anyone for any reason. Teasing shows others you are weak, and ganging up on someone else is cruel.

**Manner #16:** Even if a play or an assembly is boring, sit through it quietly and pretend that you are interested. The performers and presenters are doing their best.

**Manner #17:** If you bump into somebody, immediately say "Excuse me."

**Manner #18:** Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, and don't pick your nose in public.

**Manner #19:** As you walk through a door, look to see if you can hold it open for someone else.

**Manner #20:** If you come across a parent, a teacher, or a neighbor working on something, ask if you can help. If they say "yes," do so... you may learn something new.

**Manner #21:** When an adult asks you for a favor, do it without grumbling and with a smile.

**Manner #22:** When someone helps you, say "thank you." That person will likely want to help you again. This is especially true with teachers!

**Manner #23:** Use eating utensils properly. If you are unsure how to do so, ask your parents to teach you or watch what adults do.

**Manner #24:** Keep a napkin on your lap; use it to wipe your mouth when necessary.

**Manner #25:** Don't reach for things at the table; ask to have them passed.

This is not, by all means, a comprehensive list. But these are some heavy hitters. If everyone was more polite to one another and treated each other with more respect, we would probably get along better and the world would be a nicer place to live.



## Just For Laughs

### The Talking Dog

A man walks into a bar with his dog and the bartender says, "Hey, you can't bring that dog in here!"

He says to the barman, "Ah, but this isn't any old dog; my dog is a genius, he can talk!"

The bartender replies, "OK then, let's hear it."

So the man says to his dog, "Dog, what do you find on the outside of trees?"

And the dog replies, "Bark!"

So he says, "Dog, what sits on top of a house?"

And the dog replies, "Roof!"

So the man says, "Dog, what does sand paper feel like?"

And the dog replies, "Rough!"

The bartender gets mad at being made a fool of and kicks them both out on their behinds.

The dog looks up at the man and says, "Which one did I get wrong?"

### The Talking Puppy

A jobless ventriloquist with a little puppy in his arms comes into the butcher shop and says to the butcher, "If my little doggy can tell you himself what he wants to eat can I get it for free?"

The butcher answers, "Ha-ha. I got to hear this, and of course he gets what he want as a token!"

So says the little pup with a child like voice. "I want that big meatloaf there in front of you, Sir!"

So answers the meatloaf, "Sorry kid... we know the trick!"



## The Tale

### The Constant Companion

When I first met him, I didn't know at first what he was. He was the size of a rat running across the apartment quad, tiny tongue flapping out the side of his open mouth. When I got up close, I could see he was a little puppy... a happy dog.

Inside our apartment, I used to get down on my hands and knees and dangle my long hair over him; he played and nipped at it.

He was so proud to climb up the stairs; he just didn't know how to get down. Even when he learned how, he would always be timid and cautious doing so.

When I fell asleep on the couch he would curl up on my neck just behind my ear and stay there until I got up. In bed, he slept right up against my side... a hot little coal.

Over 17 years, our lives were indelibly stained by his presence. He greeted us when we came home and he helped us garden and with chores around the house. He was our companion on the couch when we watched TV and he was our companion when we slept.

He was our constant companion.

Winter was coming. His aging and arthritic body wasn't going to make it through. As our family vet administered what was to be his final sleep, I could see he was a little puppy... a happy dog.

~ Scott E. Byorum  
On Remembering Scooby

## WORD WEIRD

**DOLICHOCEPHALIC:**  
having a narrow head with a long muzzle

**ETYMOLOGY:** New Latin *dolichocephalus* long-headed, from Greek *dolichos* long + *-kephalos*, from *kephale* head

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