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What can you see from the picture?  
Look at the picture and write the answers.  
1. Do you like to play with animals?  
2. Which animal do you like best?

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**New Words**

- **toss**: to throw around  
- **psychologist**: a person who studies the human mind  
- **beg**: to ask for very eagerly  
- **flick**: to make a short, sudden movement  
- **delighted**: very pleased  
- **drench**: to make wet
Did you ever get the feeling your dog was laughing at you? New research suggests maybe he was! Dogs make “huffing” noises scientists think is doggie laughter. Dogs make that noise when inviting another animal—or a person—to play. They also make it when tossing a toy around by themselves.

Patricia Simonet, a Spokane, Washington, psychologist, first identified the sound. She recorded various dog sounds on a special machine that also graphs noise. The dog laughs looked different. When she played the sounds back to other dogs, they also reacted positively.

Does laughter mean sense of humor? No one knows for sure yet, but researchers are working to answer the question.

Do great apes have a sense of humor? “Definitely,” says Rob Shumaker, a scientist at the Great Ape Trust in Des Moines, Iowa. At a zoo where he used to work, Shumaker was watering the orangutan cage. It was a hot day. Junior, an adult male, begged for a drink. The ape was sitting on a platform higher than Shumaker’s hose could reach, so he flicked him some drops. Delighted, Junior laughed out loud. A long, playful water fight followed.

Afterwards, Shumaker walked over to say good-bye to Junior, and the laughing ape made one sweep of his arm, drenching Shumaker. “He totally got me!” said Rob.

### Understanding Pronouns

1. The word "They" (line 6) refers to ________.

2. The word "He" (line 25) refers to ________.
Understanding the Main Idea

Circle the best answer.

1. The main idea of this passage is that ____________________
   ____________________.
   a. dogs are nice to play with
   b. Patricia Simonet identified many sounds
   c. animals also make laughing sounds

2. The best title for this passage would be _________________.
   a. Laughing Animals
   b. A Good Smile
   c. Dogs and Apes

Understanding Details

Circle the best answer.

1. Patricia Simonet is _________________.
   a. a dog trainer
   b. a psychologist
   c. an ape trainer

2. According to the passage, new research suggests that dogs
   _________________.
   a. like to play with people
   b. make laughing sounds
   c. record various sounds

3. When Shumaker flicked Junior some water, Junior _________________.
   a. made an angry noise
   b. hit Shumaker with his arm
   c. laughed out loud
Vocabulary Practice

Fill in each blank with one of the words in the list below.

1. My clothes got ________ in the big rain.
2. I’m too tired to get up. Ross, could you _______ me my wallet?
3. It is nice to watch comedy movies because they say that ________ is the best medicine.
4. Frankly, I was very ________ to see my brother at my graduation ceremony.
5. Patricia Simonet likes to record various doggie ________.

- toss - sounds - psychologist - laughter - platform
- fight - flick - delighted - drenched - sweep

New Phrases

□ **sense of humor**: the condition of liking to laugh and have fun
Lighten up. Where’s your sense of humor?
Scientists have found that dogs have a sense of humor.
You should laugh a lot if you want to develop a good sense of humor.

□ **laugh out loud**: to make loud laughing sounds
The movie was so funny that I laughed out loud.
You shouldn’t laugh out loud in front of your teachers.
Some people say that laughing out loud is good for your health.
New research suggests that dogs ____ _____ _______. Patricia Simonet _______ ____ ____ and found that dogs laugh.

Rob Shumaker says that great apes definitely have a ____ ___ ______.

____ ____ ____ , Rob flicked Junior some water.

Junior _____ __ ______ and later drenched Rob with water.
Listen to each sentence and fill in the blanks.

1. Research shows that animals, too, ______ ______ ______.
2. Researchers are trying to find if ______ ______ __ ______ __ ______.
3. ______ ______, Rob Shumaker ______ ______ the orangutan cage.
4. A great ape named Junior ______ ______ __ ______ ______.
5. Rob ______ ______ ______ ______ and Junior began to laugh.

Homework - Writing Practice

Write a short paragraph about your experience playing with a dog. Use the following questions as a guide.

What did you do with the dog?
How did the dog react when you touched it with your hand?
Did it wag its tail? Did it make any sounds?
Based on your experience, do you think dogs make laughing noises?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________