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Driver ...

What's he trying to tell you?

DOGS are as clever as the average toddler, according to a dog listener.

Hanne Grice, who runs her pet services company, Walk the Dog, from her Hillside Gardens home in Berkhamsted, is supporting research carried out by a psychologist from the University of British Columbia that our four-legged friends can understand on average 165 words and gestures.

Mrs Grice, said: "Time and time again over the years we have seen that dogs can have differing levels of intelligence just like humans.

"Although there is no universally accepted test to measure dogs' intelligence, several IQ tests have been developed over the years ranking for obedience and working intelligence."

Now 33-year-old Mrs Grice wants to find out how intelligent adults are at understanding dogs.

She hopes to analyse how humans interpret the behaviour of dogs and their body language.

"Just because you have a dog it doesn't mean you know it all. There are lots of myths like, for example, if a dog chews a slipper; when they crouch down and look guilty, it is not actually guilt they are feeling. It is the same for other emotions like hatred and revenge. When we see these looks we humanise them, but actually miss their



Hanne Grice and four legged friend

meaning.

"Also, one of their main ways to communicate is with scent.

"For a dog to smell where another has left its scent is like them reading a copy of the Berkhamsted and Tring Gazette.

"If they are going to the toilet around your house

it's likely they are trying to tell you something."

Mrs Grice wants anyone, whether or not they own a dog to log on to her website and fill in a questionnaire for her research.

To take part visit www.walk-the-dog.net and click on the news section.