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Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers 



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*Beautiful Baxter, owned and adored by Marco Ferreira and Dillon Warren
Photography by Emma O'Brien*

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Dog talk



I just can't believe another year has gone by and that this is the last issue of Canine Zone for 2019.

And what

a great year it's been. Canine Zone has grown from strength to strength, as, aside from this magazine, we once again hosted Canine Zone mini expos at various shopping malls as well as movie preview fundraisers for Paws R Us and Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue. The big news is that we've now launched our own online store. We feature so many wonderful products in Canine Zone and receive numerous emails and messages from readers asking where they can get various products, so we knew it was time to set up our own online store featuring products that we believe in. We also saw our online store as a wonderful way to help shelters raise funds, so ten per cent of all profits each month will go to a different shelter. It was very hard to choose the shelters, as they all desperately need help, so we decided to put names in a bag and draw the 13 names that will be announced on our online store each month. You can visit the Canine Zone website and online store at www.caninezonesa.co.za

We also published and donated our annual shelter calendar in November, and this year, after the votes on social media were tallied, the winner was XXXX.

Please see the advertisement for the calendar on page X, and don't forget to order your copy. Our gratitude goes to our sponsors, Marlton's and Numatic, for helping us to get the calendar printed.

I want to send out a huge thank

you to our sponsors who continue to support us and whose products we truly believe in. In no particular order – thank you to Montego, Jock, Complete Pet, Lionel's Choice, PETport, Absolute Pets, Pro-Pet and Kulula. We couldn't bring Canine Zone magazine to you without their continued support and belief in us. My gratitude also goes to the Canine Zone team and all the shelters who've assisted us with editorial this year.

I love the festive season, but a night I dread all year long is New Year's Eve. Not because I'm a party pooper but because I feel the anguish and stress of animals when inconsiderate people let off fireworks. I get very despondent thinking about all the dogs, cats, birds and even wildlife who are badly affected and who are terrified. Some get badly injured, some pass away, and some run away and are lost to their families forever. It's not uncommon for dogs to escape and bolt during fireworks out of fear. In fact, January 1 is the busiest day of the year for animal shelters, as they spend most of the day making phone calls and trying to reunite missing pets with their frantic owners. Have a look at our tips on page 6 to keep your pets safe this festive season.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Canine Zone, as for the holidays we've included lots of heart-warming rescue stories. So snuggle down with a nice cool drink and a dog or two and enjoy.

Wishing you and yours a very happy, healthy, safe and prosperous festive season and 2020!

As always, give all your dogs a huge hug from me.

Sharon

Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sharon Dale

editorial@caninezonesa.co.za

DESIGN/CREATIVE EDITOR

Ian James

COPY EDITOR

Glyn Price

EDITOR - ALL ABOUT CATS

Aidan Wiggill

pr@caninezonesa.co.za

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Patti Baron-Lowe

Julie Bezuidenhout

(Accredited Animal Behaviourist)

Dr Larry Kraitzick (Veterinarian)

Celia McCulla (Accredited Animal Behaviourist)

Tracy McQuarrie (Dogtown SA)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Emma O'Brien and Vicki Street

MARKETING MANAGER

Devon Wiggill

devon@ebizsolutions.co.za

ACCOUNTS/ADMIN/SUBSCRIPTIONS

Telephone – 011 475-1536

Email – devad@polka.co.za

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ADVERTISING QUERIES

Chelsea Blake

Tel: 011 475 1536

advertising@caninezonesa.co.za

CIRCULATION

Francis Olivier - RNA

Email - franciso@mad.co.za



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Telephone – 011 475 1536

Email – marketing@ebizsolutions.co.za

Website – www.caninezonesa.co.za

Facebook – www.facebook.com/CanineZoneSA

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UPFRONT

PET OBESITY IS A HUMAN DISEASE



World Health Organisation statistics show that 39% of all adults are overweight, with 13% classified as “obese”. With such a high percentage of the human population carrying additional weight through lifestyle choices, it’s no surprise to see that almost half of the pets in South Africa are also classified as being overweight or obese.

Carrying just an extra kilogram or two can have long-term health implications for your pets. “Your lifestyle choices have an impact on your health – but also impact the health of your pet,” says Dr Guy Fyvie, nutritional advisor for Hill’s Pet Nutrition in South Africa. “Obesity is the number one cause of health problems in pets in South Africa – and around the world – today.”

Pets who are overweight live shorter lives and are at higher risk of

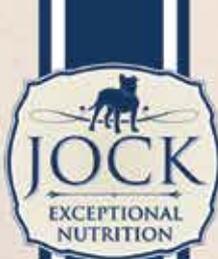
developing arthritis, urinary conditions, skin problems, heart disease and even cancer, amongst other diseases. Overweight pets may have difficulty walking, they may move slower, develop shortness of breath, exhibit bad tempers and sleep more than usual. “If you run your fingers along their side and you can’t easily feel their ribs, or if they have no obvious waist, they are probably carrying too much weight,” says Fyvie. Overweight pets have also been shown to be less happy – so that “snack-time treat” or generous helping is really doing more harm than good.

The US Association for Pet Obesity Prevention cites a “fat gap” as a key factor in the obesity epidemic: most pet parents can’t – or won’t – believe a veterinarian when they’re told their pet is overweight, because they’re not able to identify the signs. “The weight gain

often takes place gradually and is easy to overlook in the absence of regular check-ups,” says Fyvie. “Rather than putting your pet at risk of obesity-related diseases, get a professional, objective opinion.”

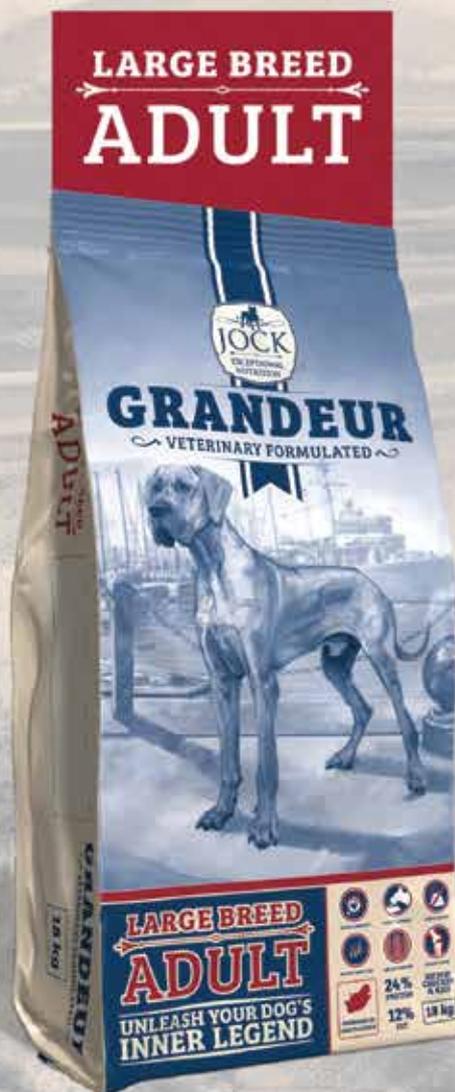
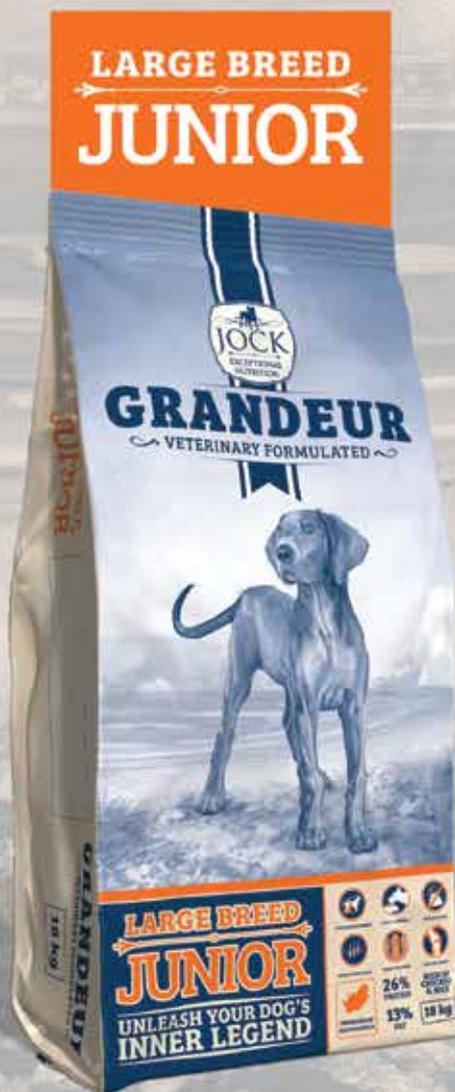
October was Pet Obesity Month in South Africa, and pet parents could book a free weight assessment at a participating Pet Slimmer veterinary practice for an evaluation of their pet’s condition – and a suggested course of action if they were overweight.

A professional assessment is also important in determining the underlying causes of the excess weight – some breeds are more likely to gain weight, the animal’s age can play a role, medical disorders can cause weight gain and feeding habits can also be a factor,” says Fyvie.



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10,000 CINEMAGOERS WATCHED A MOVIE AND SAVED A LION



Nu Metro Cinemas donated over R50,000 to the FOUR PAWS Animal Welfare Foundation at their Canal Walk cineplex in Cape Town – to “Rise Up and Roar” for one of the 21st century’s most important conservation causes. A donation drive was launched way back in July whereby cinemagoers were given an opportunity to donate R5 as part of their Nu Metro movie ticket purchases online and in-cinema to raise funds

aimed at saving South Africa’s lions.

“Nu Metro Cinemas is honoured to donate over R50,000 to FOUR PAWS, with a special thanks to the thousands of cinemagoers who contributed R5 to their movie ticket purchases at our cinemas across South Africa.

The phenomenal response from the public exceeded our wildest expectations and proved that they care, as much as we do, about the future of our animals and the environment,” says Chantelle Burrows, Nu Metro Cinemas: Marketing & Content Executive.

With over 100 big cats in the care of FOUR PAWS at LIONSROCK, they constantly look at ways to ensure the longevity of this project through

donation support. These big cats consume almost 3,500kg meat per week, regular vet checks are done, maintenance to security and enclosures is required and further development of the sanctuary must be done in order to accommodate rescued animals.

FOUR PAWS protects animals by campaigning and lobbying for changes to improve animal welfare standards. In South Africa, FOUR PAWS focuses on putting an end to the exploitation of big cats for commercial purposes: an industry stimulating the demand for lions to be killed. In every stage of their lives, lions are exploited for money, from petting lion cubs, walking with lions, trophy hunting, and the worst – killing them for bones. The organisation is actively engaged in putting an end to these practices.

CANINE ZONE ONLINE STORE

Canine Zone Online is much more than just an online pet store. We cherish the bond between humans and dogs, and form connections with our customers to make them feel like family. A happy dog makes a happy owner, and our online store features tried and tested products that your fur kids will love. We also feature wonderful and unique products for cats and pawsome gifting ideas.

With special offers, discounts and promotions, our mission is simple: help dogs (and their humans) lead healthier, happier lives.

Canine Zone Online proudly supports local shelters and rescues, and each month, 10 per cent of profits will go to a different shelter. So, come and explore our online store, make your own dog happy and help a shelter dog at the same time!

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IMDT NOW HAS A PERMANENT HOME IN SOUTH AFRICA



Dogtown recently held their fourth year of IMDT (Institute of Modern Dog Trainers) workshops. These workshops are important, not only to help our local trainers better their skills but to also help families have a better relationship with their dogs. Most behavioural issues that dogs are surrendered to shelters for are easily avoidable and easily fixed, and Dogtown really wants to try and help families keep their dogs instead of giving them up to a shelter.

International celebrity trainer Steve Mann presents the workshops each year to help Dogtown raise funds, and this year the workshops were completely sold out, with over 200 dog-loving people attending the workshops, including shelter staff. Along with the How to Speak Dog and Dog Aggression workshops, this year, for the first time in South Africa, IMDT international assessments were held. These assessments are for local trainers to take part in a two-day intensive theory and practical exam to receive membership to become an internationally accredited trainer. It was a really in-depth and intense examination programme, but we now have seven accredited trainers in South Africa, with more taking their assessments soon. South Africa now joins the UK, Australia, China and Europe in having these accredited trainers, which is so exciting for dogs in our country.

After in-depth discussions with Steve Mann, Dogtown was awarded the IMDT Licence in South Africa. This means that Dogtown can now present the same quality workshops throughout the year. Steve will still visit South Africa once a year to do the workshops.

Congratulations to Dogtown on this incredible achievement, as IMDT is the largest dog training study platform and their courses and workshops are

recognised internationally. All monies raised from the workshops will go to helping both Dogtown and shelter dogs around the country. The next dog trainer workshop is coming up in January 2020 at Dogtown's Bark and Recreation Centre in Hennops, Johannesburg. Even if you have no aspirations of making a career out of dog training, the two-day course will give you the tools to understand your dog better. For more information, email tracy@dogtownsa.org



Your Photos



KUBU is our Staffordshire Bull Terrier. He loves the Springboks and loved watching the Rugby World Cup with his dad. He also enjoys puppy school but isn't very good and loves a good game of fetch. Kubu puts a smile on everyone's face and never stops smiling himself.
– **FRANCES GREEN**



BEIGNET & DEAGO having fun in the garden.
– **JONATHAN VAN DEN BERG**



NILA is my adorable, fun-loving, three-year-old Boxer. She's very protective, loves long walks on the beach and playing in the water.
– **ANJE BODEMER**



GEOFF – "I found the Easter eggs, Mummy!" Our beautiful Toy Pom, Geoff, whom we adopted from the SPCA. – **VANESSA NICHOLLS**



GABABA & BOLT are my two Doxies. Here they are saying, "What do you mean, this is your chair, mom?"
– **DAWN DENNISON**



ZUNI is a food lover. She's always eating something, including my ears! She's my best friend, and I love her. – **TIVAN CLOETE**

WIN! If your photo is the winning photo, you will receive a fabulous prize from Complete Pet. To enter, e-mail your photo and a sentence or two about your dog/s to editorial@caninezonesa.co.za



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ZACH is a three-year-old German Shepherd cross, and he's the most gentle, friendly and loving dog anyone could have. He assists me whenever I have rescues at home and takes care of them as well, sharing all his toys. Zach is my best friend and sunshine on a cloudy day. – **THASHNEE MOODLEY**



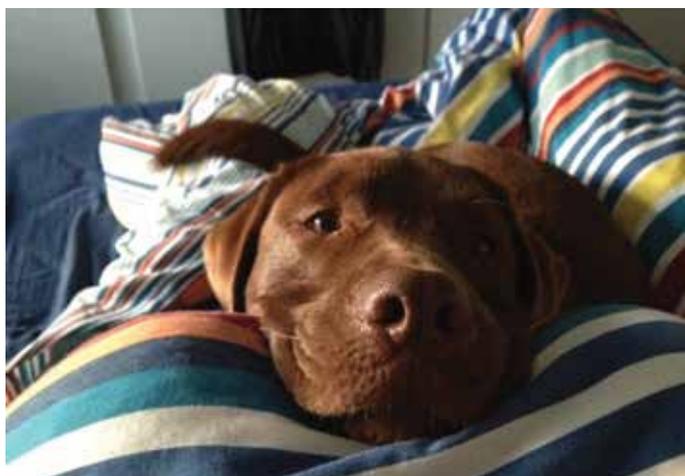
LEXI is my six-year-old Jack Russell Terrier. Her name is derived from Alexander, which means great protector. She definitely lives up to

her name's meaning – always out hunting night creatures, letting us know if something is happening outside, and very feisty. She loves attention, and when she's in the mood for some kisses, she sits up on her hind legs like a little bunny. There's no way to resist, as she just melts my heart. – **VERUSCHKA NEL**



JACK – The love affair between my eight-month-old rescue feral kitten, named Cali, and my ten-year-old Bull Terrier, Jack, is so special. – **LESLEY HOPE**

JAPIE was a stray at the SPCA Polokwane with a very bad ear infection, skinny, dirty and with nine rotten teeth. I never planned on adopting him, but he stole my heart, and so he came home with me and joined my pack of fur babies. – **CHANTELLE-LOUISE WATSON**



ZACH is always full of smiles. – **SHELLEY CARMICHAEL**



TAO – Just like the dog from the mask, our girl loves making her own mud masks. – **KIRSTI PENPRASE**

TOP TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR PETS AND THE PETS IN YOUR AREA SAFE DURING FIREWORKS



- 1.** Don't let off - or allow family and friends to let off – fireworks. Educate them about the trauma they're causing.
- 2.** Make sure your dogs and cats are inside your house with you. If your pets are especially nervous, please don't go out on New Year's Eve. Rather stay at home and ensure your furry family member's comfort and

safety.

3. Make sure your dogs get plenty of exercise earlier in the day on New Year's Eve so that they're tired.

4. Provide a safe place inside for your dogs to retreat. When scared of sounds they can't orient to, dogs often prefer small enclosed areas. Keep the windows and curtains closed.

5. Make sure all your dogs are wearing ID tags with a properly fitting collar and that they've been microchipped.

6. Put out notices in your area or on your community social media sites asking your neighbours to please be considerate and to not let off fireworks; I promise you – this really helps a lot.

7. Make sure your dog has something fun and distracting to do (especially when the clock strikes twelve). Toys that you can fill with favourite treats, large bones (never leave your dog unattended with a bone) or even a new chew toy are good ideas.

8. Try a Thundershirt or make your own. A Thundershirt is a wraparound vest your dog wears that's said to instantly calm them down through the use of gentle pressure. You can even make your own DIY version using a scarf or large bandage.

9. Keep the radio or TV on, as sounds may distract your dog from the booming firework noises.

10. Consider anti-anxiety medication. For some dogs, medicine might be the best way to go. There are several brands to choose from, or you can talk to your vet about a product that will suit your dog.



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 behaviourists Julie Bezuidenhout
 and Celia McCulla to answer



OUR DOG BARKS ALL DAY AND ANNOYS THE NEIGHBOURS

My husband and I work full time and have four small dogs at home. We recently moved into a new gated community where dogs are allowed, but we received a complaint from one of the neighbours that one of our dogs barks all day long. Milly is a little Terrier mix, and apparently once we leave in the morning, she sits at the gate and barks all day. We do leave them outside while we're at work, but they sleep inside with us. They have plenty of toys and play with each other. We're very stressed about the complaint, so we now lock Milly and one of our other dogs, Tessa, inside all day. Do you have any advice for us?

– GAIL COLLINS

CELIA SAYS – Unfortunately, this is a common problem that might have been aggravated by the move. It may just be a case of needing to settle in the new home; however, if the behaviour isn't showing signs of improvement, then you'll have to look into it. Firstly, I can't outright say what's causing the

behaviour, but possible causes can include separation distress or anxiety. You can purchase an over-the-counter calming product to help with the transition in the meantime. If you suspect separation-related problems, see a qualified and accredited behaviourist. We have three institutions that accredit behaviourists, and I'd highly recommend that not only do you look at someone who's qualified but also one who's accredited. Another cause could be boredom; even though your dog has company and the opportunity to play doesn't mean that your dog isn't bored. Try improving the stimulation your dog receives when you're home. This stimulation improves the dog's quality of life and prevents or reduces problem behaviours such as barking excessively. Try mental stimulation games such as scenting games, where the dog has to find a toy or treat that's been hidden. Create an obstacle course at home around which you can take your dogs. You can purchase jumps, tunnels, etc., or



make your own quite easily and cost-effectively. Training some new behaviours is a good way to stimulate and build confidence. Try training to give paw, or to lie down or roll over, or jump on command, etc. You'll have fun doing this, and so will the dog, provided you use positive reinforcement. Walking around the neighbourhood to familiarise your dog to the new surroundings may help with any associated anxiety. Besides, they need exercise and continued environmental socialisation. Another consideration is to block the view the dog has of what's beyond the gate. In many cases this has helped a great deal. But without an analysis, it's hard to say what will specially help your case.

WE WANT TO TRAVEL WITH OUR DOGS



We're travelling down to Durban during the December holidays and are wanting to take our two Labradors with us on holiday for the first time. Daisy and Duke, who are brother and sister, are just over a year old. They don't always behave in the car, so we're worried about driving with them for seven hours! Friends have

said we need to give them calming medication, but I don't want to drug them. Do you have any tips for travelling with dogs?

– SHARLENE WEBSTER

JULIE SAYS – It's always a good idea to condition dogs to travel in cars, as you never know when a trip to the vet could come about, and this might cause unnecessary anxiety for any pet. There are several car seat protectors on the market that you might consider buying, firstly to make the trip more comfortable and also to protect your car seats. The journey to Durban should be the beginning of a

fun, enjoyable adventure for your dogs. Teach Daisy and Duke to be relatively calm in the car by inviting them in it every day, just for a few minutes. Then progress to driving them around the block. Then progress to longer trips, until they're calm and comfortable in the car. There are numerous calming medications on the market, and in this regard, please speak to your vet.



MY DOG SCARES OUR VISITORS



We have a three-year-old Great Dane who's a much-adored member of the family. Thanos went to puppy classes and obedience training up until the age of a year and a half, and he was neutered when he was just over a year old. He's generally well behaved, if not a bit of a "bull in a China shop", but when

we have guests, he wants to jump up on them, tries to sit on their laps, and towers above them. It's almost as if he's trying to dominate our guests, especially female guests. We now have to put him outside when family or friends come over, which is very sad for Thanos and us as we'd love him to be a part of everything. Our guests get scared of him, even though he's just a giant puppy. How do we stop this behaviour? Please help!

– **CORINNA SNELL**

CELIA SAYS – Thanos is a large dog and will easily tower over anyone he tries to sit on. He can't help that. He sounds like a friendly and enthusiastic dog that just needs to know how he should behave. Have a look at my DOGS 101 article where I deal with jumping behaviour. I'd also suggest that you decide how you'd prefer for your dog to behave; I imagine you'd prefer him to lie on the ground instead, or to lie in his dog bed, etc. To train him to go to a "place", do this when no one is visiting. I like to tell my clients to "name it and praise it". You name the bed or mat with the same name every time – for example: go to your "bed" or

"mat", etc. Lure the dog to his "resting place" and reward him when he steps into or onto the bed or mat. As soon as he does that, name it and praise it. Good "mat" – and praise and reward the dog. This way, by association, he learns what the bed or mat is called, and he's rewarded for this good behaviour. You encourage this behaviour, and then eventually when he goes to the bed or mat on his own volition, you'll make sure you're ready to praise him. Then you gradually work up to pointing to the bed or mat, and when he goes to it, again you praise. Once this behaviour is reliable, you'll praise or treat him only every second or third time he goes. This way we make sure that the behaviour is being deeply reinforced and less likely to extinguish. You'll need to train this when a visitor comes over; however, I'd specifically set this situation up so that the dog understands that this is the behaviour that's expected when guests visit. Because he seems to enjoy people, allow him to greet them, and then send him to his place where he can engage in a pleasant pastime such as chewing on a dog toy or chewy.

CAN WE ADOPT A KITTEN?

We have two dogs – a German Shepherd and a German Shepherd cross. Sheena is five and Jason is four. We've raised our children to love all animals, and they're begging us to adopt a kitten or two. Sheena and Jason have never met a cat, and we're a bit nervous about bringing a kitten into the house. Do you think it's possible for mature dogs to adapt to, and be friends with, cats? Is there any way they can be tested? Is a dislike for cats an inborn trait or do some dogs just naturally get along with cats? We obviously don't want to cause injury to little kittens, so if it's not an option, it's no problem, as Sheena and Jason's happiness comes first.

– **NISHAL GOVENDER**

JULIE SAYS – German Shepherds are working breed dogs and were originally bred for herding. Therefore, this could be seen as part of their genetic make-up. In the absence of learning, dogs could rely on their inherited traits. In other words, if a cat or any other small creature runs, it could precipitate the dog to chase it down. Sheena's and Jason's reactivity and training levels will determine whether or not introducing them to a kitten would be successful.



I suggest you mandate an accredited behaviourist who could visit your home and assess your dogs to establish whether introducing a kitten would be an option.



TRAVELLING WITH YOUR DOG

With the festive season here, many of us will be glad to pack it all in and head off on a well-deserved family holiday. But what if part of your family has four legs and a tail, and you can't bear to leave them behind? We spoke to our expert animal behaviourist, Lara Nobre, on the best ways to travel with your dog during the holidays.

Travelling by car

If you're taking your pooch on holiday with you, simply loading them in the back seat of your car and hitting the road is not a great idea – especially if you'll be driving long distances.

Your pet needs to be used to car travel in order to complete the journey without distress. Get them comfortable by having them simply sit in the car with you. Then start taking them on short trips around the neighbourhood, gradually increasing the time they spend in the car.

A dog carrier is a great way to keep your dog safe in the car on your trip, but make sure it is big enough for them to stand, sit, lie down and turn around in. Also ensure they are used to the carrier by having a couple of trial runs at home before your trip. A quick trick is to feed them in the open carrier so they begin to associate it with a pleasurable activity. Placing their favourite blanket and a few chew toys in the carrier will also help them stay relaxed on long journeys. Remember, your pet carrier should always be secured to prevent sliding in the event of sudden braking.



**UNLEASH YOUR DOG'S
INNER LEGEND**

Feed your dog a light meal at least 4 hours before the start of your trip as this will help prevent car sickness. Do not feed it while the car is moving, but give them enough drinking water. You should also stop regularly so your dog can stretch its legs and relieve itself.

Travelling by plane

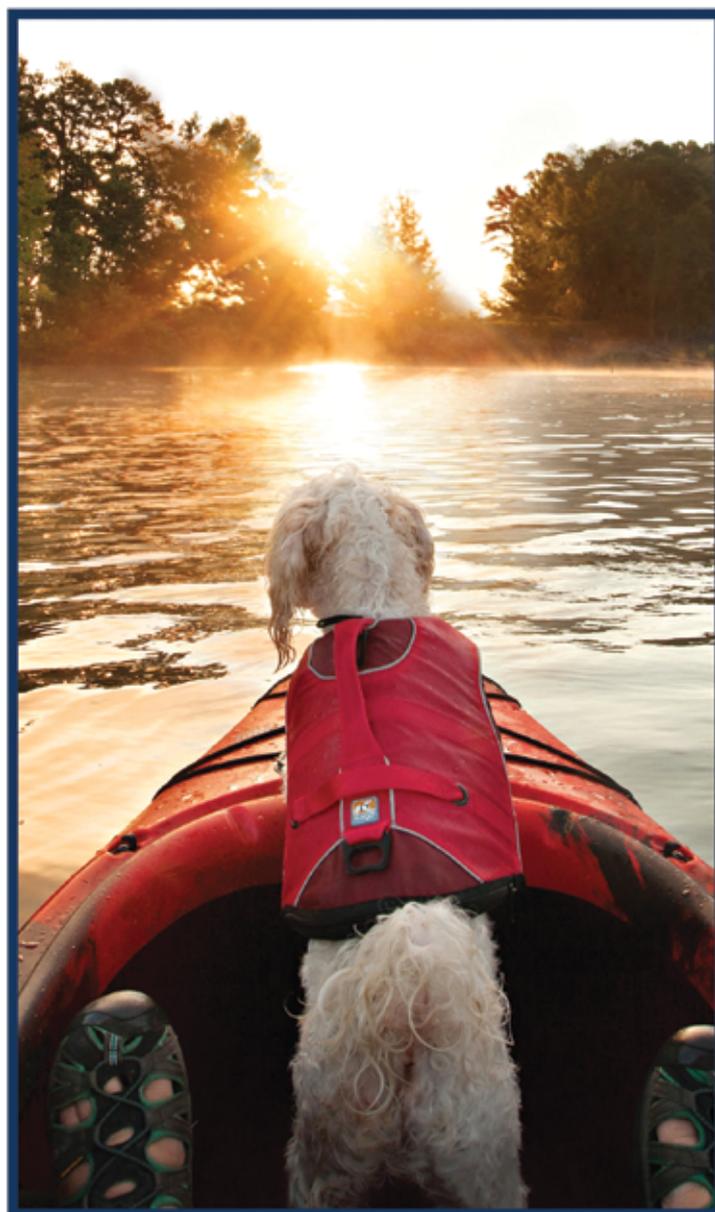
If you're going on holiday with your dog, driving should always be your first option. Although flying is faster, it is not recommended for dogs – especially ones with “flat” faces, like bulldogs or pugs – and should only be considered when absolutely necessary. If you have no other option but flying for the holidays, your pet will be better off staying at home with a pet sitter.

In the event that your dog has to take a trip by plane, confirm that this is possible with your airline first. Depending on the airline, small dogs can travel with you in the cabin on domestic flights should they be in a dog carrier. On international flights your pooch, regardless of size, will have to travel as air freight or special cargo. Airlines have limits on how many animals they can carry, so it is best to arrange this way in advance. Most countries will require health and vaccination certificates, and proof of microchipping before your dog can be allowed entry. As requirements change depending on the country, it is best to confirm the specifics prior to travelling.

To reduce the stress of flying on your dog, always opt for a direct flight to avoid them being transferred to another plane. Tranquillising them is not an option as it affects their breathing during flight. Most airlines will refuse to carry pets in this state as they can suffocate. Instead, speak to your vet about a herbal calmer to soothe your dog.

Identification

Your holiday destination might be foreign to your dog, which means they can sometimes easily get lost. Make sure they are identifiable by placing a temporary tag with their name and your contact details on their collar. An even better solution is to have your dog microchipped so they are easily traceable should they lose their way. It is also beneficial to have a photo of your dog handy to help with the search.



In case of emergency

Inform yourself of where the closest vet at your holiday destination is. Should there be an emergency, you will be able to react quicker and get your dog the assistance it needs much faster. Also, always travel with a Pet First Aid kit with the bare essentials you would need to address any minor problems/injuries that may crop up.

No More Jumping Up!

By Celia McCulla ADIPCBM (UK), Canine Behaviour Specialist (Accredited Canine Behaviourist and Trainer – SABCAP), Pet Sense College/Happy Pack Dog Training and Behaviour Management



We love dogs – that’s why we get them. We plan on sharing our homes and our love with them. As we share our lives with them, we discover that some behaviours can become a nuisance.

Common behaviour problems are natural behaviours for our furry friends, such as jumping, barking, chewing, digging, etc. These natural behaviours become a problem when they start to cause a disturbance, or become destructive or harmful. Luckily, dogs are quite clever and can be trained; therefore, many common behaviour problems can be resolved or improved.

In this issue we’ll deal with jumping, which is a menacing behaviour that starts from puppyhood and is usually encouraged by the loving family who dote on their puppy with attention and love. Puppy starts growing up and by six months is a much larger version of the once-small puppy.

After months of attention when the dog is jumping, the dog is suddenly facing punishment for the behaviour.

You can imagine how confusing this must be for the dog. Imagine you were in this same situation. You are encouraged to help yourself to the sweet bowl and then suddenly, out of the blue, you’re punished for helping yourself.

Wouldn’t you rather know what you should be doing, instead of just getting punished? Well, I can tell you for sure that the dog most definitely doesn’t want the punishment to continue.

TEACH YOUR DOG HOW TO INTERACT WITH YOU

As a loving and devoted owner, you should let your dog know how you want him to interact

with you from now on. I like to teach dogs to “sit-to-greet”. When a dog sits, he’s automatically calmer, and when he’s calmer, he can take instruction better. But first we need to extinguish the jumping behaviour. I advise that every single family member and visitor has to start ignoring the dog when he’s greeting you in an excitable manner.

Let’s say you’ve just got home; this is usually the time when the dog is excited and will more than likely jump. As you enter, do not make eye contact with the dog, and continue with what you’d usually do. Put your bag down, switch on the kettle, look in the fridge. By moving around, you’re preventing the dog from jumping on you, and if he manages to, he’ll lose his balance as you keep moving. Once your dog is quieter, you can greet him. Don’t be sad that you haven’t greeted your loving dog. It’s just going to take a little longer before you do, but you will greet him.

You’ll have to factor in the safety of others and the ferociousness of the jumping behaviour. Keeping a dog on leash keeps it under control and away from guests or children to prevent the jumping behaviour. However, keep in mind that this isn’t training; it’s merely management.

You’ll notice that the dog’s behaviour possibly gets worse. This is usually an indicator that the behaviour will get better and the

Part one of how to deal with common behaviour problems

new greeting protocol is having an effect. Coupled with you and your family no longer giving any attention to your dog for the “unwanted” behaviour, we’re going to ask our dog to sit when we greet him. Dogs can’t jump and sit at the same time. Therefore, training your dog to sit is the better alternative to the jumping behaviour. And in this way we’re letting our dog know what he should rather be doing than letting him guess and failing at it. I recommend teaching him to sit when he’s calm and relaxed. Don’t ask your dog to sit for you when he’s excited, as it’s unlikely your dog will be able to respond effectively.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION

Some science you should be aware of. With the above training, we’re using a form of operant training known as “Extinction” (ignoring the unwanted behaviour). Extinction is defined as a behaviour which was previously reinforced and is no longer reinforced and results in the “unwanted” behaviour dissipating, reducing or going away altogether. What I need you to understand is that using extinction to manage behaviours

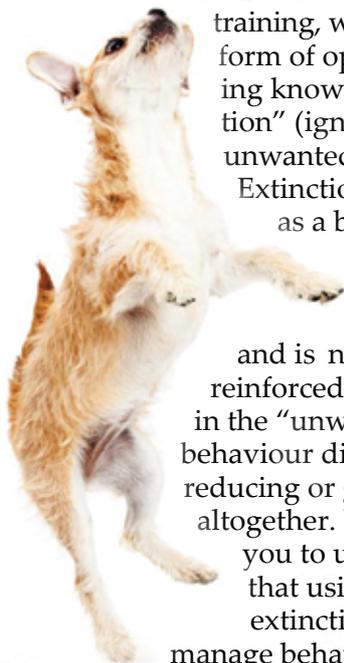
requires some precision. It’s governed by an all-or-nothing principle. If just one person should greet the dog while he’s very excited or jumping, the dog will again start to use this way of greeting. Another point to consider is that the behaviour will get worse first before it gets better. This is known as the extinction burst. The dog will try his best to get the same reinforcement as he did in the past.

When he realises he’s wasting his time, the behaviour will start to improve. And, of course, the best way to deal with this is to let the dog do what he should be doing instead, and that’s why we rather teach him to sit. I find this

protocol may be quite strict, but consider that smaller children are at risk if a dog jumps on them. It’s far safer to be a little more extreme in our training, because naturally we’re going to slacken the rules over time.

The reinforcement of the past behaviour also plays a role in how the behaviour will modify with this technique. If the dog was occasionally greeted while jumping, this would serve to strengthen the jumping behaviour, and it’ll take longer to remedy the jumping. Ref: Burch, M & Bailey, J (1999), Griffiths, L (2011).

In our Feb 2020 issue, we’ll take an in-depth look at barking. 



Battersea UK meet DogtownSA

By Tracy McQuarrie (Founder of Dogtown SA)



At Dogtown SA we pride ourselves on the enrichment and training we provide our dogs, and we're always focusing on how we can do even more. I'm always searching to find more courses and studies we can do, to be even better. I don't believe you can ever stop learning, so I was so thrilled to find the Battersea courses. After an in-depth application process, we were beyond thrilled when we received the awesome news that three very blessed Dogtown staff members would receive full bursaries to attend a workshop at the Battersea Dog and Cat home in the UK. Their intensive rescue and rehoming programme looked like such an awesome workshop, and we couldn't wait to get there and learn – and we weren't disappointed. Trainer

Wilmi, caregiver Savannah and I grabbed the opportunity and were so grateful to have this learning opportunity, completely sponsored by Battersea.

LEARNING SO MUCH!

The course was incredible – every day we learnt something that we could implement back at Dogtown. It was so beneficial to hear from other organisations attending the course about their struggles and challenges. The other organisations were from around the world – India, Cyprus, Romania, Malawi, Portugal and Sri Lanka. We soon realised that no matter where in the world we are, we're all dealing with awful cruelty, abuse and an out-of-control population of abandoned dogs. Thankfully, we all have dog-loving people like you, helping rescue centres like us here at

Dogtown, to save more lives. We've built lovely friendships with our fellow rescuers on this course, and we still speak with each other regularly on our WhatsApp group.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

The course was very in-depth, and sometimes we felt a little overwhelmed, but Battersea guided us through the entire process.

While sitting in the workshops I was incredibly proud at the level of care we already give our doggies. Even though we don't have the large dog-loving population like they do in the UK, our supporters have enabled us to keep in line with international standards in animal care. This workshop has taken us even further with more of the nitty gritty stuff, like shelter metrics to help you run your centre better and to understand your catchment area so you can plan on how to help your local community.

Battersea's experience and knowledge that they had to share with us was overwhelming. The way they run their organisation, deal with the public and successfully train, rehabilitate and responsibly rehome an unbelievable number of dogs and cats per month is something that we now strive towards within the future of Dogtown. We're privileged to know that we've gained enough knowledge to steadily develop Dogtown into an even better world-class rescue centre,



Battersea's shared experience and knowledge was overwhelming

FEATURE

especially with the ongoing support that Battersea will offer us, for years to come.

We've now been back a month, and we're still working with Battersea on changes we're going to implement. Some of the changes are quite big and daunting, but Battersea have been so supportive that we know our little sanctuary is going to be even better for the dogs in our care. If you'd like to help us here at Dogtown to save more lives, email pat@dogtownsa.org 



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LEAVE IT!

By Celia McCulla ADIPCBM (UK), Canine Behaviour Specialist (Accredited Canine Behaviourist and Trainer – SABCAP), Pet Sense College/Happy Pack Dog Training and Behaviour Management

One of the most important things you can teach your dog!



It can be very difficult to train a dog to leave a dangerous object, plant, insect or even a snake alone, especially with regards to certain breeds. I usually train with an exercise called *Leave it*. Training your dog the “Leave it” command can be very helpful with this type of situation; it’s not, however, a guarantee.

Dogs are very curious by nature, and the only way for them to explore their world is to use their mouths; unlike us, they don’t have hands. Because of this they can mouth inappropriate items or even poisonous plants and venomous snakes!

We want our dogs to listen if we tell them to leave something, as it can save their lives. You can use the following steps to train your dog to leave certain things alone:

1. Set your dog up in front of

2. Place a piece of food on the floor about one metre away, while holding the leash.
3. When your dog moves towards the food on the floor, tell them to “leave it”, and prevent them from getting to the food on the floor.
4. When your dog gives up or even looks at you, praise the dog and give them a treat from your hand, encouraging them to come closer towards you and away from the treat lying on the floor.
5. Practise this exercise and progressively bring the treat on the floor closer and closer.

The expected outcome is that your dog will not attempt to get the treat on

the floor. Then progress to taking the leash off and standing ready to cover the food, in case the dog decides to go for the food. Change it up with different types of food, and also increase your distance from the dog. Make sure that the item of food you’ve told your dog to leave is never given to him. This exercise can also be used to stop your dog from stealing from dining room tables or counter tops. Remember – practice makes perfect.

MY OWN EXPERIENCE

My Beagle, Jessie, is well-trained in this exercise. One day a baby Hadedra crash-landed in my garden, and Jessie ran towards the bird. I said, “Leave it,” and she stopped in her tracks. The bird recovered and flew off unharmed. I can show off Jessie’s skills at dog training lessons where I’m able to drop food right on top of her while I’m far away and she won’t touch it. 🐕



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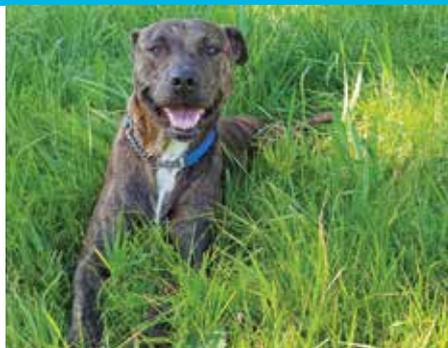
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BONNI AND ME

By Janine Lee



Hi, my name is Bonni. Five years ago, after wandering the streets of Port Elizabeth, I found myself at Animal Welfare Society in Port Elizabeth. Suddenly this tall, good-looking guy with a funny accent rushed in to meet me. I was a little startled but decided to lick him on the face when he picked me up. As I licked him, it was kind of like love at first sight for both of us.

Before I knew it, I was in his car and on the way to a new home. I'd only been there for four days and I was loving it, but then I started feeling sick – my stomach hurt and I didn't want to eat. They rushed me back to AWS where Dr Stuart did a test on me and told my new dad I had Parvo. I was put in isolation, and they shaved part of my leg and stuck a needle in there with a drip so I could stay hydrated. I was so afraid, and I thought and felt like I was going to die. I spent ten days in the isolation ward. Every day my new human or his wife came to visit me. They tried to coax me to eat, but I just couldn't. My human's wife often had tears in her eyes when she looked at me.

Bonni's incredible bond with her human dad

Then, on the eleventh day, I felt a little bit better and I could eat something, and my tail wagged. Dr Stuart said I'd turned the corner and could go back home. I'd beaten Parvo, a disease that kills millions of dogs.

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

I was very thin and weak when I got home, but I was home. Once I started eating, I felt much better. Then I began to behave like a naughty puppy, and I started doing things I suppose I shouldn't have done.

My humans were very patient with me, and they taught me that this behaviour was unacceptable. I didn't believe them at the time, and I was a repeat offender. However, the older I got I realised that there were better ways to occupy my time during the day instead of destroying things. Like chewing sticks and branches. I also spent my days with my older sister, Jessie, who also came from AWS. She's an old lady now, so I'm very gentle with her.

BECOMING A K9 GOOD CITIZEN

My human dad took me to puppy school where I made loads of friends. He then took me to basic obedience training, and then he introduced me to the sport of dog agility. Boy, can I fly over those jumps! My human also enrolled me in IPO, and this is a sport where on command – and only on command – I'm trained to attack. As a result of all my

interests I have a healthy body and a healthy mind. I'm also very fit, and my dad says I was born to run. I'm extremely well behaved with humans and other dogs, and I'm the proud owner of a K9 Good Citizen Certificate. Like many rescue dogs, I've had a number of issues to deal with, but my human constantly works with me helping me to deal with things. With his patience and love I've overcome many challenges.

A WORD FROM BONNI'S DAD

My name is Markus, and I'm Bonni's human. She's my constant companion. She loves sunrises and sunsets, as well as being cuddled up and warm in winter. In the summer months, my Bonni loves nothing more than being in the water. We share everything, mainly the bed and the couch. Weekends are spent hiking together or doing beach days. Bonni is very photogenic, so we also pose a lot for photographs together. I used to be a bit uptight about things that don't really matter, but Bonni has taught me that a dirty car is not the end of the world. Or that the giant hole that she occasionally digs in the garden is also not the end of the world. Of course, there's still the occasional shredded cushion... but who cares. She always greets me with a tail wag and a smiling face. I wouldn't swap this dog for the world, because for me she is the world. Thank you, Animal Welfare Society, for finding me my perfect match. 🐾



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MAX'S ADOPTION STORY...

By Natalie Brink



“No words can describe, or ever do justice to having this little soul in our home”

By way of introduction: my name is Max (aka Maximus Doppelplus), and this is the tale of my long (literally) road into the home of my new family. You see, I wasn't always this lucky. I somehow got myself lost on the streets of Uitenhage and was taken to the SPCA so I could be safe. I'm so grateful to the people there. They called me “Tin Tin”, and I was taken really good care of. Although there were plenty of friends there, I was still sad and worried because my owners never came to look for me, even after I waited for many months...

But please don't worry – that's not how my story ends! I ask my new best friend, Joe, to tell me my adoption story when we lie in bed at night and snuggle. He starts with the bit that explains how his mom had been volunteering for a rescue organisation in Cape Town for a very long time. She gets to see many dogs in need from all over the country on something called “Facebook”. One day, as she was scrolling through the daily posts, my picture popped up, and Joe says that he asked her to pause, as he thought that I was so special and sweet (I make him tell that part repeatedly).

After having a family discussion (it's something like a pack meeting) to make sure that everyone agreed, my family filled in the papers to apply to adopt me.

Joe says he was really excited and asked for a progress update every day after school. But things took very long, and he was getting more and more anxious that they might not get approval to adopt me. The delays had something to do with “out of district” and National Council review and personal meet-and-greet – all things that I don't really understand or care about. He was also worried that they might be too late as I was already on death-row (I close my ears at that part of the story; it's really scary!).

GOING HOME AT LAST!

Finally, after weeks of prayers and follow-up messages, desperate calls to the animal network Joe's mom is connected with, and finally pleas to National Council, my family got the go-ahead to adopt me. Joe says that he was so excited and that he immediately got everything ready for me, including my very own spot on his bed. I'm so grateful and relieved that they never gave up on me, not during all those days of waiting, not during all the hours of follow-ups, and also not when they found out it meant a long car trip for the whole family, including my new doggy-sister, to collect me.

The following Saturday my family got up really early and in the dark. They started driving from Cape Town to Uitenhage to fetch me. It took ten hours (Joe says

it felt like 100 hours!). When we finally met, oh boy, I couldn't believe that this was going to be my family. I've not stopped smiling since!

Now I live in Cape Town and have started to learn about all the good things in life, as well as how a scruffy dog like me needs to behave in a home and around other dogs. Here are some of the things my new family has learnt about me –

Dislikes: grass (especially wet grass), rain, water, car trips (they make me horribly ill), the neighbour's dog, squirrels, sleeping on my own, getting told to please wee outside.

Likes: my new best friend, Joe (of course), sleeping on something (anything) elevated, junk food (just can't help it), my older Staffie sister (she has so much patience with me), cuddles and belly-rubs, going on adventure walks, soft toys, underwear (blush), making a “cute face” when I know I've done something wrong. 🐾



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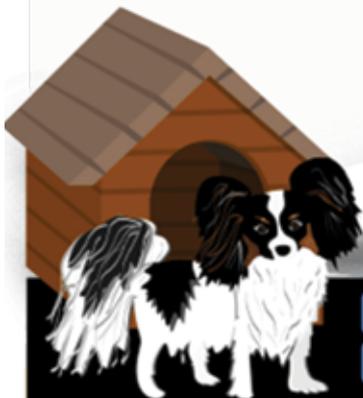


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Buddy is Home!

By Tracy McQuarrie (Dogtown SA)

Ten years ago I was new to the rescue world. It had started with walking the dogs at the Sandton SPCA on a Saturday morning to helping a rescue group with some of their dogs that they had in private kennels over the Christmas period. In my life as a TV editor, December and January were generally quieter months, so I knew I'd have some time on my hands to be able to help the rescue group during the festive season.

I asked a friend of mine, Jane, if I could put up temporary gardens on her plot for the month of December, thinking in January, once the private boarding kennels were free again, the dogs would all move back. Things didn't go to plan when it was time for them to go back to the kennels, as I'd already realised that this was my life's journey. And here I sit, ten years later, with 150 dogs on a 50-acre farm with a team of 32 humans caring for them.

MY FIRST RESCUE

One of the first dogs I rescued was a cute little nugget called Buddy. His start in life was horrid. When they rescued him, children had a rope around his neck and were swinging him about in the air. Just the thought makes my blood boil. The worst part, although it's all awful, is the fact that he was still a young dog, and this all happened during his fear period – which those of us studying animal behaviour know is the worst time for bad things to happen to a dog. This abuse

was entrenched in his being. It made him wary of any change, anything new or any unfamiliar sounds. Gaining his trust was a challenge for all the volunteers. You had to work at his speed; one rushed move and you were back at square one with him. He was a real behaviour study case, and just when we thought we had figured him out, we were back at square one again. Obviously, being at Dogtown for so long, he became a bit of a celebrity in his own right. He was voted by our supporters the undefeated Dogfather of Dogtown.

From the day I collected him, I'd always wanted to make Buddy a part of my family, but when I brought my dogs to meet him, one of my dogs, Emia (she was four years old then), wasn't keen on him at all. Sadly, I had to accept that he couldn't come home with me. It broke my heart. He's an awesome dog, but with so much trauma and uncertainty in his early life, it made it so difficult for him to trust anyone. This obviously made it difficult for families to fall in love with him, as he simply hid away. He had his few favourite volunteers who visited on a regular basis, and he became closer to them as he spent more time with them. He loved dogs, and for years he's been our official puppy raiser, as he's great at teaching the puppies good manners. It was so sad to watch him – so many times you could see he wanted to come and be with you. It's just that that little voice in his head was so strong

and warned him to stay away.

TIME FOR BUDDY

Sadly, last month I lost my beautiful Emia at 14 years when old age got the better of her. While we were mourning the loss of our beautiful girl, my heart reminded me that Buddy could now come home. It was a happy thought, but I was so broken about Emia; I needed time. Then I realised that the longer I moped about, the longer Buddy had to stay in a shelter.

A week later I finally pulled myself together and took my other three little ones to spend time with Buddy. I knew Stella and Nicci got on great with Buddy, as through the years I'd brought them in to spend time with him. Laurie was a newish addition to the family, so I wasn't sure how he was going to behave. With everyone loaded in the car, we headed out to Dogtown. I kept telling Laurie, his older brother, how important Buddy was to me, so I needed him to be a good boy. He must have listened, because the meet-and-greet went really well, and they spent the rest of the day with Buddy while I went ahead with my daily duties at the shelter. That night as I drove home, I was so excited. For ten years poor Buddy had waited for a family of his own. I'd always called him my Buddy, because even if he'd been adopted, he'd always have been the one that got away. I loved him from the day I took him into our care.



FOREVER HOME

It took ten years to have Buddy live in my home, but only ten seconds to have him in my heart!

COMING HOME

That weekend we managed to get Buddy into a crate, and, with much trepidation, I drove him home. It had to work now, and I wasn't sure if he'd even come into the house. The plan was to open the crate in our hallway so he could decide if he wanted to go into the garden or into the house, and we'd just let him find his way and decide in his own time what he was comfortable with. My little trio were so excited to show him around, and I was completely gobsmacked as he began walking around the house as if he'd lived there his entire life. He found his

spot on the top of the couch and this became his go-to spot during the day. It was lovely to see him relaxed and sleeping in that spot.

That evening when we all headed to bed, I left all the doors open so he could decide where he was comfortable. To my surprise, he followed us all into the bedroom, jumped up on the bed and fell asleep on a pillow next to my head.

As I lay there staring at him with amazement, I wondered how he was so happy to be in a new environment, with so many new

sights, smells and sounds. I really believe he knew he was finally home and safe.

I didn't get much sleep that night. I was so happy he was finally in my home, and every day that passes I see him blossom and become more confident in himself. He's still wary of new people and new sounds, but I think with the confidence of the other dogs he's settling in like a duck to water. It took ten years to have Buddy in my home, but it only took ten seconds to have him in my heart. Now, if only I could get him to have a bath! 🐾

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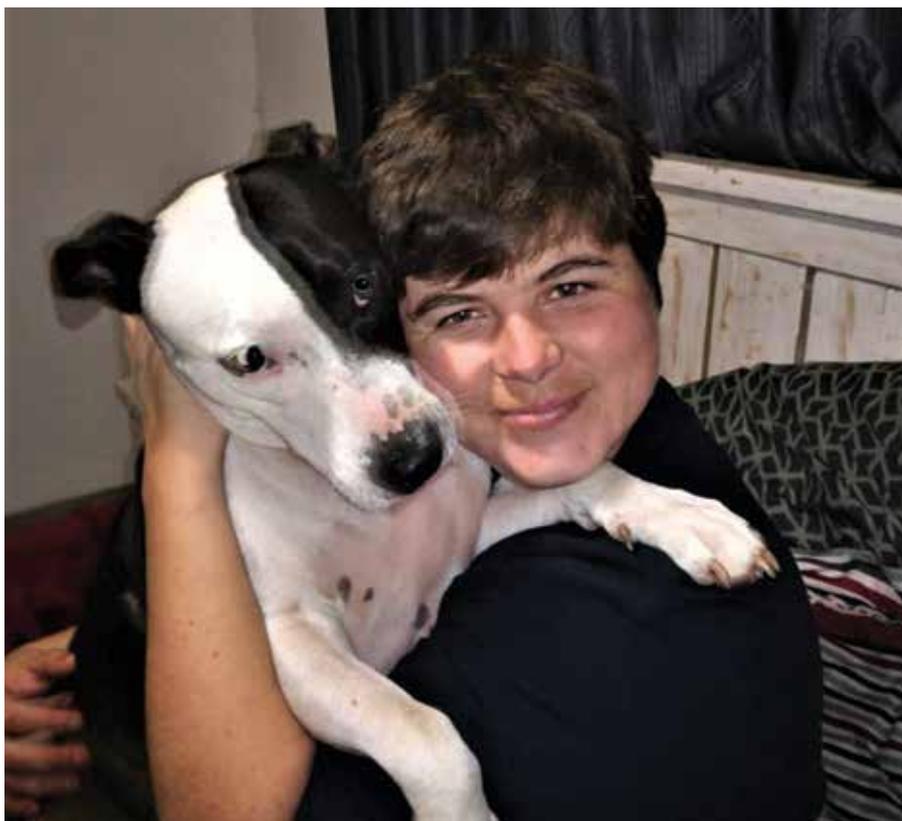
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LIVING with HOPE

By Brett Farrell

The little Pit Bull with an amazing gift



Our journey began when we received a call about a little Pit Bull female who was being abused.

After protracted negotiations with her owner, it was agreed that we could take her into our care. The day that she arrived in the plastic travel crate was one to remember. The little black-and-white girl hiding in the back corner of the crate was terrified of everyone. After trying to coax her out for what seemed like an age, we resorted to having to tip the crate to get her out. The fear that she exhibited was enough to make anyone cry. Even getting her to walk a few steps on her

harness was an exercise in patience, and we accepted that her rehabilitation was going to be a lengthy process.

THE DOG SHE WANTED TO BE...

Hope showed glimpses of the dog that she wanted to be but kept reverting back into her shell. The old adage of one day is one day could never have been truer. One of the board members of the foundation found a tennis ball gift in a bag of dog food and decided to see what Hope's reaction would be. We would love to say that what followed was a planned part of her rehabilitation, but if truth be

told, it was more of a shot in the dark. Little Hope morphed into a different dog when the tennis ball was introduced. She began playing and acting like the puppy she was. It was something about the tennis ball. We tried other toys to no avail – it was definitely the tennis ball. Seeing her charge around like a crazy dog was massively rewarding. She had the quirkiest mannerisms, one being the way in which she'd pull her bottom in whilst running with her ball, making sure that she couldn't be caught from behind. Her transformation had begun. It was to be a long road that she had to travel, but her willingness to change made the journey so worthwhile.

A HOME FOR HOPE

Charmaine first made contact with me after having seen a post about Hope on our Facebook page. I wasn't sure that she was ready for homing, but at the same time didn't want to stand in the way of an awesome home for this special girl. We arranged a meet and greet with Charmaine and her male Pit Bull Max.

The meeting left us astounded. It was as if these two souls had known each other forever. The immediate bond that formed was tangible. Hope left us that day to join her new family, and it was a bittersweet moment. Little did we realise the impact that this little girl would make on the lives of her adopters, and more particularly, in the life of Natanya.

Natanya suffers with Epilepsy and has regular seizures, and Hope has somehow learnt to predict the onset of her seizures. When she senses an imminent seizure, she becomes very restless and cries in a particular way. When the seizure starts, she lies on top of Natanya and licks her hands and ears. She won't leave Natanya's side until the seizure has passed. We've all read of dogs who've been trained to protect their owners who suffer from seizures, but in Hope's case, this is an amazing gift. From an abused, shut down and fearful dog to the amazing soul that we see now is truly humbling for all of us who were involved in her rescue.

Thank you to Charmaine, Hubert, Natanya and Max for giving Hope her second chance at life. Hope has made a massive impact on this family's life. 🐾



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10 Ways to Get Your Dog to Enjoy Water

Making sure your dog is safe and comfortable near water is important



Most dogs are great swimmers, and some dog breeds simply love the water. However, other dogs are more careful around the water, or even afraid of it. In some cases, it could be because their only experience with water up to that point has been a bath. The good news is that with some training and patience, you can turn any dog into a water-loving swimmer. Here are easy steps to make your dog a water baby.

1. **Safety first!** There's nothing more important than safety, so make sure that your dog is comfortable around water and can swim. In the case of a swimming pool, make 100 per cent sure that your dog can get out of the pool on his or her own. When out on the water at a dam or lake, ensure that your dog is always wearing a life jacket.
2. **Make bath time fun** – When your dog has a hard time accepting the water, you can use bath time as water training. Make bath time fun and give lots of treats and praise.
3. **Start with a kiddie pool** – Introduce your dog to water fun with a kiddie pool. You can start off by filling pools ankle high, tossing in a few toys, and starting a game of fetch. With time, increase the water level. Soon your dog will love to splash in the kiddie pool on his own.
4. **Jump in with your dog** – Dogs can easily get over their fears if we help them by showing them that water is nothing to be afraid of.
5. **Have a play date** – Seeing other dogs run and jump into the water can help your dog see that it's fun and not frightening.
6. **Slowly but surely** – To get your dog into water, first show her how to enter and exit. While on leash, toss a special toy into the water or use a high-value treat and lure her in, placing the treat by her nose and praising and rewarding for any attempt to step into the water.
7. **Doggie life jackets** – Consider using a life jacket to help reluctant swimmers. It will add buoyancy and create security as they test their water skills. Acclimatise your dog to the jacket in short sessions over the course of a week, putting it on and treating him for wearing it.
8. **Stay calm** – Whilst teaching your dog to swim, the calmer you are, the calmer your dog will be.
9. **Have fun** – If your dog sees you having a great time near the water, they'll be more willing to join in.
10. **Don't force your dog** – Never, ever throw a dog into a pool or body of water or allow someone else to do it. This is abuse and cruelty, and your dog could even go into shock. 🐾



The HEAT is ON!

By Dr Larry Kraitzick, Bruma Lake Veterinary Clinic



Extrême heat is unhealthy for everyone, but particularly for dogs. In summer, temperatures can rise rapidly in a matter of hours, and conditions are then prime for heat stroke, overheating, or “heat exhaustion” in dogs, as it’s sometimes called.

SYMPTOMS

Catching a heat stroke in its early stages can help prevent permanent damage to your dog’s internal organs. Some early signs of heat stroke include:

- Excessive or loud panting
- Extreme thirst
- Frequent vomiting
- A bright red tongue and pale gums
- Skin around muzzle or neck doesn’t snap back when pinched
- Thick saliva

SECOND STAGE

Look out for signs of worsening heat stroke. The dog’s heat stroke can be worsening if he begins to exhibit any of the following:

- Increased difficulty breathing
- Gums that turn bright red, then blue or purple
- Weakness and/or fatigue
- Disorientation
- Collapse or coma

TREATING HEAT STROKE

It’s important to note that pets with short flat faces such as Bulldogs, Pugs, French Bulldogs, Pekingese, and Boston Terriers, as well as very old and young dogs and sick dogs with chronic diseases such as heart or kidney disease, need extra care. All these dogs should be taken to a veterinarian as soon as possible after cooling!

To cool down, remove the dog from the heat. If possible, move the dog indoors to an air-conditioned area or a room with a fan. If that’s not possible, move them to a shaded area outdoors, preferably with decent air flow. Allow the dog to drink cool water but keep the quantity of the water small at first. It’s not advisable to give the dog human sports drinks. If the dog seems uninterested in water, cool or room temperature (low-fat, unsalted) beef or chicken broth is an acceptable substitute. Do not force-feed water to the dog if he cannot drink freely on his own.

Cool the dog with water by wetting him with a stream of cool water. If the water is coming from a hose, be sure that the pressure is reduced. Do not submerge your dog underwater completely, as his temperature can drop too quickly, which may lead to other complications. When wetting your dog, be sure that the water isn’t overly cold. Very cold or ice water can actually slow the dog’s cooling processes.

Do not cover or confine the dog. You can wipe the dog down with cool, damp towels, but don’t





By **Dr Larry Kraitzick**
BVSc MRCVS
Facebook: @drlarrykrait

Recognising and treating heat stroke and dehydration

draped the towels over him, as they can trap in the dog's body heat. Similarly, do not place the dog in a closed crate that will hold the heat.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE!

Of course, the best cure is prevention, and you can help keep your dog from overheating with some basic safety practices. These include limiting exercise or outdoor activity on excessively hot or humid days, providing plenty of shade and water when

your dog is outdoors, and never, under any circumstances, leaving your pet in a parked car – not even in the shade with the windows rolled down! Even on cool days, the inside of a car can get hot very quickly, making it an extremely dangerous situation for your dog.

If your dog has lots of energy and needs to exercise, take him swimming or let him play in a sprinkler for a short while. If your dog has very long or thick hair, consider getting him a shorter haircut during summer. Never

take your dog on long walks when it's hot. A short walk in the early morning or evening would be best. Keep in mind that hot tar or paving can burn sensitive foot pads. When out and about, make sure you always have water available for your dog, and make sure there's a shady spot for him to rest. You can also wet your dog down or use a cooling vest. 

Check out our online store for wonderful summer dog-cooling products – www.caninezonestore.com



Adorable Annie's New Life

By Yvette Wilde (50 Shades of Spay)



great either, so her chances of having a loving home were non-existent.

Without preamble I sped off to the vet. On my way to the practice I was listing all the reasons why she had to be put to sleep. I didn't have funds in my vet account, she'd probably need extensive care... and so the list continued. I'd pretty well made up my mind, and when I got to the vet, I rushed her into the consulting room and put her down on the table. Somewhere

had to be kept in a small area so her leg could heal, and I just didn't have the facilities for a convalescing dog. The universe heard my plea, and within hours the proprietors of a new dog and cat hotel that had opened in the Vaal Triangle contacted me. This 5-star animal hotel opened their door and heart to a little unknown dog, offering her a suite of her own until fully recuperated. My joys knew no bounds, and I think Party and I were a little overwhelmed when we saw the facilities – 24-hour care and supervision in luxurious surroundings. Deonè Longstaff, who started this hotel with a view to offering a home away from home for the pampered pet, took Party under her wing.

The 20th of August 2019 would be a game changer for a little street mutt as the events that would unfold would end in a rag-to-riches story. This is the story of Party, aka Annie – read it and be inspired.

I run a small spay campaign in our local community, and early morning calls for emergencies are not uncommon. On this particular day I was driving and couldn't answer my phone, but as I rounded the corner, on Party Road, I saw a commotion. What caught my eye was a little body lying motionless on the side of the road. I stopped, with my mind already in assessing mode. The dog was in pain as a car had hit her. Her overall condition wasn't

in all this chaos she decided to lick my hand. Just one lick... and I couldn't. The world of animal welfare is a hard one. You have to make decisions that you don't like, but there's always the funds factor and the homing factor. Yet I just couldn't make the decision, and my parting words to the vet were that we'd make a plan if she pulled through.

THE HEALING BEGINS

Party, as I named her in the interim, had sustained a fractured back leg, torn ligaments, cuts and bruises. She stayed at the vet for four days, and then, with a leg in plaster, she was discharged. Where to now? I couldn't bring her home as I already have a small furry army of my own. She

Party flourished and days turned to weeks. Every time I visited she was with her fairy godmother. In the interim, we decided to spay her and chip her so she'd be ready for her new home once she had the plaster off her leg. At the end of September, I began looking for a home for her. We couldn't continue our squatting at Baxter's Bark & Breakfast, and it was becoming clear that Party had fallen in love with her new people and surroundings. I was scared the separation would be a problem, and I didn't want to break the dog's heart. Despite all her setbacks in her life, Party had become a beautiful, kind, happy dog, and she had no problems with cats or other animals. This would help when we started

Baxter's Bark & Breakfast announces their very special concierge

looking at homes – or so I thought.

FINDING A HOME FOR PARTY

Days came and went and there was no interest in Party. I started making plans to introduce her to my pack. Once again, the universe had other plans. Party had become quite the little concierge at Baxter's. She met all the new guests and spent her days lounging on the sofa in the garden or under the desk at reception. As D-Day drew nearer,

I could sense a feeling of anguish emanating from David and Deonè. My thoughts were that maybe we'd overstayed our welcome, but it seemed it was just the opposite. The formal request came not long after. Baxter's Bark & Breakfast had a vacancy for a concierge, and they wanted to adopt her!

BAXTER'S CONCIERGE

It's often said that bad things happen so they can make space for good things to come. Party is

now named Annie, and her worst day put her on a path where she'd finally become a much-loved part of a family. There are still a lot of good people around; we just don't hear enough of them.

If you want to follow Party's story, go and look at the Facebook page for Baxter's Bark & Breakfast. You'll see her shine in her new position as family friend and hotel employee of the year. 🐕



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THE TOP FIVE SMART DEVICES FOR YOUR PET

By Hazel Imrie, PETport Owner and Founder

Today's technological advances are providing a solution for anxious pet parents

It's becoming easier to travel with pets, thanks to a greater awareness of airline policies and animal relocation services, as well as a greater amount of pet-friendly holiday accommodation. Still, there are times you have to leave your four-legged friend at home. In fact, for many office workers, that's a daily reality. We leave our pets home alone for long stretches.

Fortunately, today's technological advances are providing a solution for anxious pet parents. Just as we can't live without our smart devices, our pets can take advantage of them too. From home cameras to GPS gadgets that offer pet owners peace of mind that their fur baby is safe and happy.

GPS TRACKERS

While dogs may escape from your property on occasion, cats roam on a regular basis. GPS trackers, typically attached to the cat's collar, keep you in the know about your pet's movements. Paired with an app on your smartphone, you can easily find them if they're lost, even triggering an alarm.

AUTOMATIC FEEDERS

Going to be late for dinner? Worried your house sitter is overfeeding your animal? Automatic pet feeders ensure your dog or cat's daily routine isn't disrupted, and they receive their optimal serving of dry pellets. Simply set the time and portion size, and the feeder will do the rest. Although automatic

feeders have been available for a while, newer versions have advanced functionality like a built-in microphone and speaker so you can record a personal message, effectively calling your pet for meals. Some automatic feeders even have built-in cameras so that you can monitor the mealtimes, along with sensors which alert you when food is running low.

PET CAMERAS

Just as you might have a monitoring device to keep an eye on your kids during school holidays, you can install a pet cam for your fluffier family members. All you need is an Internet connection, wi-fi and power source. Again, advances in smart home technology mean you have an incredible amount of remote control via phone or tablet app. While models of pet camera vary, functionality can include day-night view, camera movement control, the ability to record and share clips, treat dispensed at the push of a button, and genuine two-way audio-visual communication with your pet. Even if you're on the other side of the planet, you can check in on your fur child and see his ears perk up on hearing your voice.

SMART TOYS

A pet left alone at home may be prone to laziness, leading to weight gain and related health issues. Automatic playtime accessories such as ball launchers, treat dispensers and self-rolling

toys help to keep your pet stimulated and active when you're not around to take them to the park. Settings prevent your pet from over-exhausting itself, and in some cases, you can assume remote control, participating in the experience from afar.

MICROCHIP PET DOORS

Home security is, of course, a concern in South Africa, but you don't want it to impact on your pet's quality of life. Smart pet doors are designed to keep out unwanted intruders – as well as those of the four-legged kind – while giving your cat and dog continued freedom of movement between indoors and outdoors. These intelligent products are programmed to read your pet's identification chip or supplied collar tag and only open for them. Microchip pet doors also liberate pet owners from those exhausting "let me out" wakeups at 3am.

While all these smart pet devices are designed for home use, some have benefits when travelling with your pet too. 🐾



BAILEY IN NEW ZEALAND

Brought to you by  PETport
Pet Travel & Relocation Specialists

By Deshree Reddy



Bailey's parents reached out to PETport in April 2019 to transport their precious pooch to New Zealand from the East Rand. Our Specialist Consultant, Clarise, advised Nadene, Bailey's mom, on the regulations and timeline of the process, which is usually six months long.

Two months before her departure, Bailey came to stay at our export preparation facility for final tests and treatments, overseen by PETport's caring and professional staff. The facility is geared for long-term boarding and provides a home away from home for pets. With dedicated play areas and plenty of exercise, Bailey had lots of fun during her stay.

It was a sad day when Bailey had to leave as we got very attached to her. The State Vet came to finalise her paperwork and seal the crate as per the requirements for New Zealand, and then she was transported to the airport. Our Pet Handler checked Bailey in with Qantas Airlines and ensured she was comfortable in her travel crate. The friendly airline staff topped up Bailey's water

bowls throughout the flight, as often as needed.

We tracked Bailey's entire journey and were notified when she arrived at the quarantine facility in New Zealand. After the mandatory 10 days of quarantine were complete, Nadene and her family were thrilled to have the final member of the family back. They sent us photos and the below feedback:

"Just to let you know that our beautiful Bailey has arrived in Gisborne safely. Thank you to each one of you magnificent ladies, and your teams, for looking after her so well and for ensuring that she returned home safely to us. Our family is now complete, and she has already made herself at home."

This kind of feedback is exactly why we're in the business of keeping families together.

PETport is a registered pet travel and relocation specialist service, affiliated with major international animal governing body IPATA (International Pet Animal Transport Association) and ATA (Animal Transportation Association). With international training and hands-on experience passed down from one generation to the next, PETport is the best choice to transport fur babies, fluff babies and feather babies.

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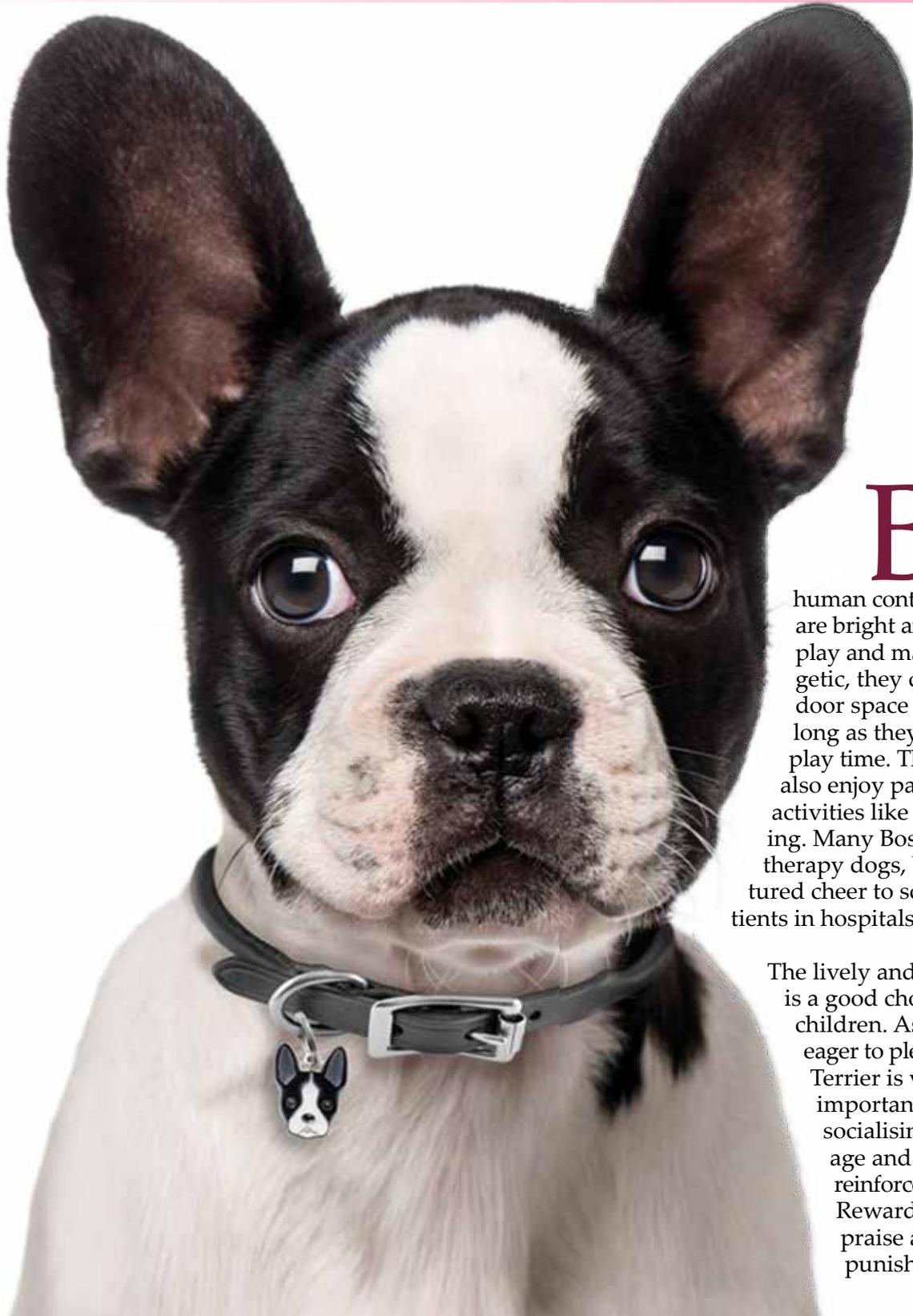
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Boston Terrier (-ology)



Boston Terriers were bred to be companion animals and they thrive on plenty of human contact and attention. They are bright and active, always ready to play and make friends. While energetic, they don't need too much outdoor space to keep them happy, as long as they get enough exercise and play time. These plucky little dogs also enjoy participating in organised activities like flyball and agility training. Many Boston Terriers work as therapy dogs, bringing their good-natured cheer to schoolchildren and patients in hospitals and nursing homes.

The lively and cute Boston Terrier is a good choice for families with children. As a smart, outgoing, and eager to please breed, the Boston Terrier is very trainable. It is important to start training and socialising your dog from an early age and always use only positive reinforcement training techniques. Reward good behaviour with praise and treats and never punish your dog.

Smart, Outgoing and Eager to Please

HISTORY

In the 1800s, a breeder in Boston, Massachusetts, named Robert Hooper acquired an English Bulldog and white English Terrier mix named Judge who is the founding dog of the Boston Terrier breed. Bostons were originally called "Round Heads" before taking on the Boston Terrier name. They were also once called American Bull Terriers, but owners of Bulldogs and Bull Terriers objected and, in 1891, the Boston's official name became the Boston Terrier.

Today's Boston is well-known for its distinctive black and white coat, although the breed standard allows for brindle and white or seal and white as well. The amount of white in the coat varies from dog to dog.

GROOMING & HEALTH

A Boston Terrier's coat is short, smooth, and glossy. They will shed somewhat, although not nearly as much as thicker-coated breeds, and experts recommend a once-weekly brushing with a soft bristle brush. An occasional bath is all that's needed to keep your Boston Terrier looking good.

Like most purebred dogs, Boston Terriers can suffer from inherited health problems. Their Bulldog ancestry has contributed to the breed's looks, but it has also led to some serious health problems, especially certain inherited health issues related to the physical

structure of the breed's head, face, and body. Boston Terriers are Brachycephalic, and Brachycephalic Syndrome is a term used to describe the multiple effects of airway obstruction and reduced airflow to the lungs in short-muzzled dogs. Bostons with brachycephaly can suffer from several chronic breathing and health problems, and while brachycephaly can be less severe in Boston Terriers than some other flat-faced breeds like English Bulldogs, it is always a good idea to choose a puppy that has a longer muzzle. Boston Terriers have protruding eyes that can be vulnerable to injury and disease, including dry eye, corneal ulcers, cataracts, and glaucoma. The most common joint problem in the breed is luxating patella, a hereditary condition often seen in smaller-sized dog breeds.

Because of the short face, care must be taken that a Boston Terrier does not get overheated. Bostons also feel the cold easily and, in general, should be protected from extreme cold. They are definitely house dogs, not outdoor dogs. Bostons do snort and some may snore, but these are usually endearing qualities. Some have a delicate digestive system and are prone to gas. Their lifespan is 10 to 13 years, although there have been Boston Terriers who have lived much longer.

LIVING WITH A BOSTIE

Bostons tend to be good-natured, playful dogs. For people who

want a cheerful, fun-loving companion, this breed can be a great choice. Bostons generally get along well with other pets, even cats, especially if they are raised together. Because they have a sturdy build, Boston Terriers are probably more tolerant of children compared with other small dogs. If children treat them well, the Boston really enjoys playing with them. Although they are likely to bark if there's an unexpected knock at the door, Bostons are not great protectors.

Most of them are so congenial they will welcome anyone into the house, whether friend or foe. 🐾

*Acknowledgement –
www.thehappypuppy.com*





NEELSIE - MY BOSTON SOULMATE

BY WERNER GERBER

We were just about to leave our home for a well-deserved long weekend in Mossel Bay when I saw a post on Facebook

that would change our lives forever. BTRSA was looking for a lift, from Mossel Bay to Cape Town, for a young Boston Terrier boy. Without thinking too much about it, just knowing that it was on our way home, I hit reply.

After a fantastic weekend, it was time for the tedious road home. The

kennels where we had to pick up the Boston boy were just off the road. When we arrived there, this beautiful boy was staring at us from a cage. Ten minutes later we realised that we wanted to be his family.

It's been four months since that trip. Oreo, our Boston baby, found the perfect brother, and the boys are inseparable. They're always playing, always running and always looking for the next adventure (digging to China seems to be their favourite!). There's never been a single moment where they've even considered showing aggression towards each other.

My wife, Leandri, was steady and confident throughout the entire process of taking Neelsie into our

home. From the moment that she saw him, she knew that this was a boy worth fighting for. I think she saw a little bit of herself in Neelsie; someone appreciating the small things in life, and someone defining the true meaning of love.

The Oxford Dictionary defines the word "soulmate" as "a person ideally suited to another as a close friend or romantic partner". I found my first soulmate on the 15th of January 2015. I married her on the 22nd of December 2017. I found my second soulmate on the 18th of June 2019, and we adopted him a week later. It's funny how life sometimes turns out. A random reply to Facebook turned out to be one of our biggest blessings.

LOVING NELSON

BY WILLIE FOURIE

Hello, my name is Nelson, and this is my story. I'm a Boston Terrier, born on 30.09.18 in Bloemfontein. When I was about seven weeks old, I left my mommy and went to my forever home (or so I thought). My new family called me "Lucky".

When I was about five months old, I got hurt. My leg was broken, and I needed surgery. After my surgery, I was in a lot of pain and was very sad, but my family didn't understand that I needed medication and physiotherapy. One day a very kind lady from Boston Terrier Rescue (BTRSA) came to fetch me. I was very scared, but she kept on telling me that everything was going to be OK.

After a few days, in Johannesburg, I met a very kind, sweet lady whose name was Robyn, and she told me that she was going to make me better. She took me to see lots of doctors; I remember them talking about me and that I had a serious

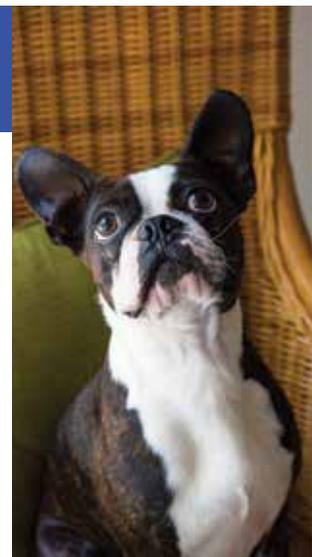
infection in my leg. I finally knew what the word LOVE meant, and to make things even better, I got a brother and sister. I noticed that we all looked the same, but that was OK; I was happy and getting better. Robyn changed my name to "Leo". I didn't know that BTRSA put my video on Facebook, telling everyone how special I was and that I needed a forever home.

Now this part of my story my dad told me – he saw my video on Facebook and fell in love with me. (I know that is true because he tells me every day that he loves me.) He contacted BTRSA to enquire if he could be my forever daddy. They told him to be patient because of my injury, but he still contacted BTRSA every day to check on my progress. BTRSA did the home check to make sure that I'd be adopted into a nice family. After a few weeks with Robyn, I had to fly down to Port Elizabeth to meet my new family.

I was nervous but also excited, because Robyn told me that I was going to be fine, and I believed

her. My name is now "Nelson" and my forever home is in Port Elizabeth with my Mommy and Daddy and my siblings, Winston and Dava. I noticed that they looked like me too, and I finally realised that we are all Boston Terriers. We all snore and let off wind, we're very clever, shed very little hair, love to play with a ball and give the best cuddles – ever!

Thank you BTRSA for helping me find LOVE and my forever home.



DOTING ON DAISY

BY SHANNON GRANT



When writing about my Daisy, I realised how easy it is to write about something you love.

Our beautiful Boston Terrier, Daisy, came into our lives on the 8th of December 2018, and what a blessing she's been. Daisy was ten years old when she was surrendered to Boston Terrier Rescue due to her owners moving and not being able to take their dogs with them. She travelled from Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth to her new home with us. When we moved into our new home, we decided that we wanted to adopt for the first time ever, and so the search for the perfect Bostie began. When adopting, I think most people immediately lean towards a younger dog or even a puppy. I must say, we did the same thing and kept looking past the older doggos and tried adopting a younger Bostie. Little did we know where we we'd end up.

We spoke about the idea of an old-

er dog and the challenges we might face. We wondered if an old dog would be lazy or might not adapt to our lifestyle, and so many negative thoughts ran through our minds, but every time we looked at applying, we just kept going back to an oldie. So, we applied to adopt Daisy, and two weeks after signing the papers she arrived home. Not only did all the worry and negative ideas of adopting an older dog fly out the window, but we knew instantly that we'd made the best decision.

To this day Daisy is so energetic and has so much love to give. She chews her "hoofies" until the sun goes down and gets the "zoomies" every time we see her, whether it's been five minutes or two hours. She loves to lick anything from blankets to doors to her brother, Sock's, back, and she loves her walks, or should I say sprints? Our Daisy has the cutest habits and quirks that put the biggest

smiles on our faces (let's not forget about what a wind factory she is – Bostie owners would know what I mean!). She really has turned our house into a home.

We were wrong about the stigma that people have regarding older dogs, because Daisy is a puppy at heart and has fit into our family as though she was always here. We're so grateful that we have the opportunity to give her the best retirement home we possibly can. Daisy is the first of our "adopting old" family, but she's far from last. Thank you to Carli from Boston Terrier Rescue South Africa for making our Bostie dream come true and for helping us find our best friend. Life wouldn't be the same without our Daisy.



FINDING FRIKKIE

BY CARLI O' CONNOR (BTRSA)

Hi, my name is Frikkie, and this is my story. I was abandoned when the humans moved homes and I was left with nothing.

No food, no water, no shelter. I was fortunate enough that the neighbour noticed and was kind enough to look after me. She then contacted Boston Terrier Rescue South Africa (BTRSA) and notified them of my plight.

They (BTRSA) sprang into action and sent my very own chauffeur to

come and fetch me, after which I went into a foster home. My foster family (who quickly nicknamed me "Frikkie Bikkie") saw how very skinny I was (yay for treats!). They also noticed that I had some scratches over my body and that there was something wrong with my "boy bits". They got me to a vet who checked me from the tip of my nose to the tip of my tail. My "boy bits" were in a bad way, and they had to do some skin scrapes to make sure there were no ugly bugs lurking. The vets gave my foster family medicine and a strict to-do list so that I could get healthy, get snipped and be healthy enough to find my forever family. After a few more visits to the vet, I was eventually given the all-clear. I was the star of the show and

had my very own photo shoot!

A lovely couple saw my photo and decided they had to meet me. BTRSA conducted a home check (because I deserve only the best), and when they were happy, I went to meet them and their girl fur-child. Needless to say, I charmed the entire family, and I now have a forever family of my own. If it weren't for the kind neighbour, the volunteers of BTRSA and the kind vets, who knows where I would be?! But most importantly, it's all the awesome suppapwers who donate to BTRSA via the My School Card who make it all possible. No donation is ever too small, and listing BTRSA as a beneficiary means you help us without even knowing it! Thank you to all the supporters of BTRSA for changing my life for the better!

BLESSED BY BOSTON TERRIERS

BY JILIAN JACOBS



I prayed for a best friend, and you know what I got? I got a Boston Terrier! Those who say that diamonds are a girl's best friend have never had the privilege of owning a Boston... or being owned by one.

We bought our first Boston four years ago. It took a lot of persuasion, but it was one of the best decisions we ever made. Savanna, or as I like to call her, Savanna Banana, is a happy pill in the body of a dog. Shortly after she came to us, I suffered from PTSD. If not for her, I wouldn't have made it. Her presence helped me through the worst of times and made the best of times even better. She's provided hours of entertainment with her zoomies, snoring, funny faces and soft kisses. We say she's highly educated by the

number of books she's "read", by which we mean she has destroyed!

Four years later and we've added a further two Bostons to our family. To us, they're our children, and as such, each one of them has a unique personality. Flash, our foster fail, is your typical high-energy Boston. He's by far our most photogenic dog as he pulls the cutest, funniest and craziest faces. He loves to cuddle and to play tug-of-war. Flash is my favourite running partner. Pumba, our youngest, is our largest Boston, but don't let his size deceive you. He still believes that he's a baby and always wants to be close to a human. Something that always makes Pumba happy is being able to play with children.

Bostons have a way of crawling

into your heart and taking it over. People often say, "Once you go Boston, you don't go back." I believe a lot of people feel the same about the breed they love. What I love about Boston Terriers is their sheer craziness – their faces are so expressive. They're intelligent and stubborn, but enthusiastic learners. Bostons are an affectionate, loving breed. What struck me the most was that they don't only want love and affection from humans, but they have a physical need to be close and affectionate with other dogs. I'm looking forward to the day when we have a baby, as I'm so excited to see who the devoted best friend to our baby will be. May our home always be blessed with a Boston Terrier.



I'M A BOSTIE MOM

BY ROBYN SMITH

I'm a Boston Terrier mom – what's your super power?

Boston Terrier – a breed of dog with a big attitude in a small tuxedo body. A connoisseur of snorts, flatulence and the stink eye. Most likely to have OCD, as exhibited by their frantic need to remove all squeakers from their toys. Although highly intelligent, they have zero concept of personal space or proprietary rights... they own EVERYTHING. Generous giver of killer kisses and superior snuggles. Capable of stealing your heart with a single butt wiggle. Known for simply making

life better.

My husband and I got our first Boston Terrier baby four years ago, and our lives changed forever. As with anything, my husband first had to do extensive research on the breed before committing to buying a pup. After

months of online searches and chats with our vet friend, it was finally time to find a puppy. We very naively found a breeder, chose a pup and paid the deposit. A few weeks later, she was ready to come home.

We had everything ready. Well, everything except her bed. We had ordered one, but it hadn't arrived, so she slept in a beer box for the first few nights. We decided to name our puppy Snooki. She unfortunately fell ill on the very first night and was at a vet first thing the next morning. Riddled with worms and too weak to

eat or drink, she was kept at the vet overnight and put on a drip. After a week of going to the vet, Snooki finally recovered. She also stole the hearts of everyone at the practice (the real reason I think they said we must keep coming back).

After the horrible realisation that we'd supported a non-reputable breeder, I felt I needed to get involved in rescue; make a difference, help those that need it the most. And so, my extensive research began. I found Boston Terrier Rescue South Africa on Facebook and decided to get in touch. After months of begging and pleading, my husband, Ian, finally agreed we could foster. Bursting with excitement, I quickly emailed the rescue to arrange a home check. Within a week, the home check was done, and our first foster boy arrived. I'll never forget the day – the day I jumped wholeheartedly into rescue, promising myself that I'd do

as much as I possibly could, be it fostering, home checks, social tests or even lifts.

Diesel was with us for a month. He was a loving, gentle boy who loved to cuddle, and he found his happily ever after quickly. My heart got a bit of a shock when he left. It was weird. I was happy and sad all at the same time. I was so happy that he'd found his forever home, but I knew a small part of me left with him. After that, the fosters came in fast, every single one of them with their own quirks. Cupcake refused to walk on a lead, Sunny would throw himself into your arms to ensure he got the biggest cuddle, Frikkie loved to play with water when the garden was watered, Nelson would snore louder than a motorcycle, and Stitch would lick you at every opportunity he got. The list goes on, and the memories are treasured.

Billy came to us in October 2018. He urgently needed to find a foster home, and I jumped at the opportunity

to help. He was dropped off on a Thursday afternoon, and we could see he was confused and scared. Snooki, as she does, went to try and play with him, but he wasn't in the mood and instead went inside and lay on the couch in the corner. Snooki was very patient and went to lie with him. Not too close, but close enough so he could feel a friend. After three days, Billy started to feel more comfortable. He was still cautious, but he was starting to warm up to us and would snuggle with Snooki. With love and patience, Billy began to trust us. He was ready to go on a play date to a potential adopter, but the home wasn't the right fit, and a week later he came back to us, broken. We had to start all over again. This happened on two more occasions. It's important to always remember the rule of 3s – three days for the new doggy to figure out their new home and family, three weeks to figure out they'll live with you, and three months for them to become

part of the family. With tears in my eyes and a hurt in my heart I couldn't describe, I felt I was letting Billy down. Somehow, I managed to convince Ian that Billy needed to stay with us. We foster failed to the max – the one thing I promised Ian we wouldn't do. We adopted Billy on the 26th of December 2018.

This didn't stop our fostering journey. Of course, Billy is now the boss of the house, so we have to run the foster doggies past him first. But the four of us now go out of our way to continue to help those in need. To give these precious souls a second chance; to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome; help them build confidence and trust; and be their stepping stone into their new lives. A piece of my heart stays with every single foster that leaves, but the rewarding feeling knowing we changed a life far outweighs the heartache of saying goodbye. Our time together was never going to be forever, but the impact we had in their lives will be.

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MAKING THE FESTIVE SEASON FUN FOR YOUR DOG



The holiday season is here and with it the many pleasures we've come to expect and welcome. The holidays are a time to enjoy with family, and that includes your fur kids. Here are a few ideas to make the holidays special for the whole family.

1. Get a family portrait taken with your dogs. Including your dogs will be so much fun, and you'll have the special memories forever.
2. Find a few great dog-friendly recipes online and get baking and experimenting with decorations. You could make your family and friend's dogs and shelter dogs baked gifts as well. Just make sure that the recipes and ingredients are safe for dogs. For example, don't include ingredients like grapes, raisins or chocolate.
3. Create a treasure hunt for doggie treats. This can be done by hiding the treats when your dog is in another

room and then bringing him or her back in to search for the treats. This activity is sure to entertain your family and friends as well.

4. Get your dog his own Christmas stocking and fill it with little

treats and toys. The creation of the doggie stocking could also be a fun family activity (especially for the kids), and your dogs' purging of the stocking's contents will be sure to delight.

5. Christmas Eve or Christmas morning – depending on your tradition – is a fun time highlighted by furiously unwrapping gifts. Allow your loyal dog to join in on the fun and watch as he joyfully unwraps his gifts. Just make sure that all gifts and wrappings are safe for dogs.
6. Make a special video of your dog or start a photo album. There are lots of fantastic video and photo editing apps available, and the entire family can get involved in creating memories. You could even start a YouTube channel for your dog. Who knows... he or she might become famous!
7. Fight the urge to sit around during the holidays and get

out with your dog. This way, you'll both be well exercised, and it'll do you both some good. Go for walks, play games, play with a laser pointer or have a swim together.

8. Invite pet-loving family and friends over for a Christmas pet party. You can have the human guests bring homemade dog treats or maybe have a toy exchange. Dogs love new toys, even if they're second hand.
9. Snuggle down with your dogs and watch movies like *Marley and Me*, *Hotel for Dogs* or *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*. Your dog will probably sleep through the movie, but who cares – as long as you're together.
10. Visit dog-friendly restaurants and shopping malls. Just make sure that your fur kid is well behaved on a lead and is well socialised.
11. Teach your dog a new trick or practise dog training. Get yourself an agility set and set it up in your garden.
12. Virtually adopt or sponsor a shelter dog in your own dog's honour. Put together treat hampers and deliver them to your closest shelter, or do a collection – friends, family members and colleagues would be happy to donate food, a toy, a blanket or even money. A wonderful way to show your gratitude for having your own dogs in your life. 🐾

Grooming: an essential part of pet healthcare



Grooming is an essential part of pet healthcare. Quite simply, grooming your pet will improve his or her condition and hygiene; and thus prevent any unnecessary infections.

How and why should I wash my pet?

If your cat or dog starts to smell it's time for a wash. For some dogs, this can be every month. For cats, it's probably only a few times a year. When it comes to grooming, don't go overboard. Too much washing can affect the skin's natural oils and condition.

How and why should I wash my pet?

- Wash your pet in a large bath or tub outside.
- Make sure you have pet-friendly shampoo.
- If your pet really hates a wash, there are products on the market that don't require water which makes the experience a little less unpleasant for them!
- Keep shampoo away from your pet's eyes.
- Make sure you rinse and dry thoroughly.



KYRON Purl Shampoo R89

If you are looking for a professional groomer, visit one of our pet spas

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Keeping those nails in good shape

If your dog's nails seem too long, you can give them a careful cut, but we recommend chatting to your vet first. It can be quite technical, painful or require particular clippers. A pet's 'claw' has blood vessels known as the 'quick' so you need to know how to avoid this area otherwise you can really hurt them.

Why and how often should I brush my pet?



Olly & Max Double Sided Brush R99

Regularly brushing your pet's coat is good for blood circulation and essential for good coat condition. It removes dead skin cells, aerates the coat and unclogs pores. For long-haired dogs, de-shedding helps to prevent mats which can be painful, difficult to remove and can lead to infections; for cats, grooming prevents hairballs.

For long-haired pets we suggest daily brushing and for more short-haired breeds, weekly.

Don't forget to brush their teeth!

Dental disease is one of the most common diseases diagnosed by vets and so the answer to the question: "Do I really need to brush my cat or dog's teeth?" Is: YES!

Cleaning your pet's ears

There are a few signs that it's time to clean your pet's ears - if your pet is rubbing their ears, fluid is seeping out or excess wax, dirt & grime or a smelly ear. A healthy ear shouldn't smell and should be pink with a little clear or yellowish wax.

But remember, don't over-do it and don't use any type of instrument or earbud as you can cause damage.

We advise you use a pet ear cleanser and clean cotton wool to wipe their ear clean or for a more thorough cleanse, squirt a little cleanser into the canal and massage the canal for a few seconds.

How do I prevent those dark streak lines and clean my pet's eyes?

Use a pet eyewash and clean soft cloth or cotton wool and administer it to the corner of the eye. This will help clean your pet's eyes (including any tear stains) and offer some relief from irritation. If not an eye wash there are also special eye wipes for pets. If you suspect any infection, go straight to your vet!

Get in touch

Visit your local Absolute Pets store, find an Absolute Pets Pet Spa near you or get in touch with us online, or on Facebook.



Ricky Litchfield Ear Smart Spray R109



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KEEPING YOUR DOG COOL THIS SUMMER

The Chillax Cool Pad is designed to keep pets cool and comfortable. It's activated by weight or pressure, and the pad will maintain at a temperature slightly lower than the ambient temperature for up to three or four hours of constant use. The Chillax Cool Pad automatically recharges itself as your dog moves about - no electricity required. Ideal for your dog's bed, crate, kennel, as well as for car travel. Perfect for dogs prone to overheating. To order your Chillax Cool Pad, visit www.caninezonestore.com



PEACE OF MIND WITH A FIRST AID KIT

The First Aid Box for Pets offers peace of mind that if your pet suffers a cut, bruise or strain, you are fully prepared to treat them. The First Aid Box for Pets by HighTravel is Veterinary Approved and each pack contains 24 items, all designed with the care of your dog in mind. Of course, a First Aid kit is a must-have in every household, but remember that if your dog is seriously injured, you will still need to get to a veterinary clinic as soon as possible. To order your HighTravel First Aid Box for Pets, visit www.caninezonestore.com



DISTRACTION AT ITS BEST!

Does your dog dislike bathing? Is it a problem to get them into the bath? The innovative Aquapaw Slow Treater helps persuade pups to get in the tub and keep them there while you give them a good wash. Simply spread their favourite treat (like peanut butter) in its centre and stick it to any smooth surface. The rubber nubs will help extend how long your dog will enjoy it, and freezing your Slow Treater extends the amount of time it will take for your dog to lick off their treat. The Aquapaw Slow

Treater was specially designed to be stackable and freezer safe, so you are always ready for a time when you need to distract your dog. To order your Aquapaw Slow Treater, visit www.caninezonestore.com



DOGGY DÉCOR

Most pet parents have various toys scattered around their homes, and there is a mad dash when guests are coming over. The Rosewood Forest Canvas Toy Basket is perfect for storing your fur kid's toys and accessories. It is made from a high-quality canvas material which is stylish and modern.

Easy to wipe clean, the Rosewood Forest Canvas Toy Basket will keep your home looking beautiful, and your dog will always know where his favourite toys are. To order your Rosewood Forest Canvas Toy Basket, visit www.caninezonestore.com



WATER WISE

Life Jackets are designed to keep your dog safe in the water, and with the Ripstop Life Jacket, he or she will look cute to boot! Perfect for pool parties, trips to the beach or on the boat, the adjustable straps ensure the perfect pup fit while the dual grab handles make it easy to pull your dog out of the water in an emergency. The Ripstop Life Jacket will also help nervous dogs to learn to swim. To order your Ripstop Life Jacket, visit www.caninezonestore.com



To order selected pet products featured on this page at great prices, visit www.caninezonesa.co.za and click on the Online Store tab. 10% of all profits from the Canine Zone Online store goes to a different dog shelter each month, so you can treat your own dogs whilst helping shelter dogs at the same time!

LET'S CHASE SQUIRRELS!

Chasing squirrels at the park? Chasing squirrels at home of course! Finally, there's a toy version of your dog's favourite pastime and he or she will love the Hide-A-Squirrel. Just stuff the squeaky squirrels in the soft tree trunk, and watch your dog pull them out one by one. Doggy entertainment at its best. To order yours, visit www.caninezonestore.com



KEEPING YOUR FUR KIDS SAFE

Do you worry about what will happen to your dogs (or cats) if you become ill or are incapacitated? Assuage this worry by keeping a Pet Care Card with you at all times - one for your purse/wallet and one for your keyring. On the back of the card you will add details about your pets and who to contact in case of emergencies. Permanent ink markers can be used to fill in details or Pet Care Cards can supply you with labelling machine stickers. Cards retail for R65 each, with an additional R25 for customised labelling machine stickers for customised contact details. Discounts of 10% will be given for orders of 10 or more cards. For more information, visit www.petcarecards.co.za or WhatsApp 078 203 7510.



IT'S TREAT TIME!

Every pet deserves the best and Pawsome Raw treats are made using certified organic ingredients. This issue's Holistic Hound gives you a breakdown on all the products Pawsome Raw



has to offer in terms of delicious treats for your dog. For more information visit www.pawsomeraw.com

WIN! One lucky reader stands a chance to win a Pawsome Raw treat hamper. And five lucky readers will win five packets of treats. To enter, email your name and details to pr@caninezonesa.co.za with PAWSOME RAW in the subject line.

CHICKEN OR BEEF?

The Lionel's Choice Dog Food range now includes delicious, real gravies. An all-natural gravy made with free-range beef and free-range chicken. Wheat free, low in salt and sugar these gravies have been specifically formulated by a chef, using the finest quality ingredients to ensure our furry friends will be licking their bowls clean. Treat your canine companion to a deliciously meaty mealtime with Lionel's Choice Gravies. Delicious poured on dry or tinned dog food, this gravy will add an extra-special twist to your dog's dinner. Contact info@lionel-schoice.com for your nearest stockist.



WIN! 10 lucky readers will each win a Lionel's Choice Gravy with Chicken and a Lionel's Choice Gravy with Beef. Send your entry to pr@caninezonesa.co.za with LIONEL'S CHOICE in the subject line and giving us your name and contact details.

DRESS TO IMPRESS

Jou Ma Se Clothing sell pet-related merchandise for humans, such as T Shirts, Hoodie Tops, Stickers and Paws on Board Signs. Jou Ma Se Clothing donate a portion of all proceeds to animal rescue organisations throughout SA. With the funds raised, Jou Ma Se Clothing help pay the animal rescue organisations' vet bills directly, so they know the funds go to a great cause and help dogs on the road to recovery. For more information about Jou Ma Se Clothing, visit www.joumaseclothing.co.za or email: info@joumaseclothing.co.za

You can also order your Jou Ma Se Clothing products from the Canine Zone Online Store by visiting www.caninezonesa.co.za and clicking on the store tab.

WIN! One lucky reader will win a festive season gift pack, which includes a T-Shirt, Paws on Board Sign and Think Dog Sticker. Total prize value is R260 (includes R100 courier voucher, for SA only). Enter by emailing your details to pr@caninezonesa.co.za with JOU MA SE CLOTHING in the subject line.



GINGER-BROWN – OUR LIGHT AND OUR LOVE

By Ivyann Moreira-Schofield



A tribute to the kindest and sweetest little girl

On September the 27th 2011, we headed off to Springs SPCA to take photos to network a little “Frenchie Boy” that needed a home. Upon arrival we were told there was no Frenchie, but there was a female Boston Terrier cross who had been in hospital for weeks after she had been attacked by another dog while living on

the streets. She was also suffering from severe kennel stress and was refusing to eat.

In the back of a run was the skinniest, saddest-looking Boston Terrier I’d ever seen. She still had a cone on her head, her ears were down, and her head hung low. She looked up at us from inside the cone. My husband, Martin, asked, “Are you a Bostie? Can you put your ears up?” And with that she put both ears up.

Without much discussion we filled out the adoption forms. As we drove away, Martin said, “We should call her Ginger-Brown.” We’d just driven past a shop called “G.B.Motors: The Home of Ginger Brown”.

Ginger-Brown was still shut-down and ill after we took her home, but one night, I went outside to find Martin holding her head up and telling her, “Ginger, you are a proud Boston, hold your head up. You are a proud Boston.” It was as though a switch turned on and things got better

from then on. Ginger-Brown found her will to live, and we found our fourth dog-child. Ginger-Brown, the kindest, sweetest, most sensitive girl ever. She became part of our pack, the energy engine in our home and Martin’s shadow. Ginger-Brown and our other dog, Gretsche, after a rocky start, became besties, chasing vacuums and birds by day, and sleeping side by side at night.

August last year she started having the odd seizure and was diagnosed with Cushing’s Disease this July. Eight years and 16 days after she joined our family, she passed away suddenly mid seizure.

Our Princess Ginger-Brown, at the time of writing, it has been 17 days, 8 hours and 41 minutes since you left us. Sometimes it feels like forever, and sometimes it feels like you were just here. Our hearts are broken, and your five dog brothers and sisters and your Dad and I are trying to find a new normal. I try to remember life before you, but my heart doesn’t remember a life without you. You were incredible. You were so much. You made us laugh and smile. You made me feel safe. You were brave, innocent, vulnerable, beautiful and unforgettable. You will be missed forever, but one day we’ll meet in the light. 🐾



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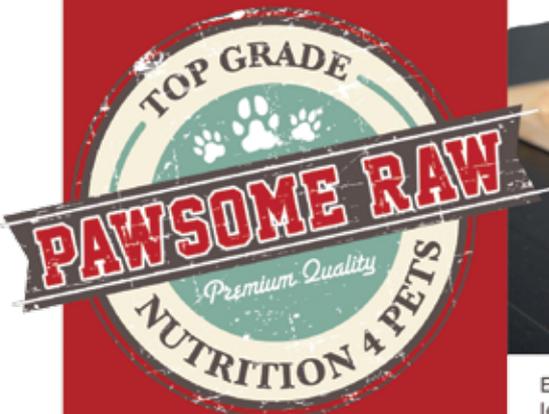
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HOLISTIC HOUND

TREATS: FRIEND OR FOE FOR THE RAW FED PET

Brought to you by Pawsome Raw in collaboration with Dr. Morné Strydom MBChB (Pret), BSc (MedSci), MPharmMed, AC Clin Pharm (SA), PhD

A balanced raw diet has many benefits for your pet. Pet owners may list several reasons that motivated them in the past to switch their dogs to a balanced raw diet. Some of these reasons may be due to grain intolerances that precipitated as skin allergies, or gastrointestinal symptoms like intermittent diarrhoea. Although many pets respond very well to balanced raw diets, some owners may remain frustrated by persisting symptoms that motivated them in the first place to make the switch to raw, even after a vet has cleared the pet from other possible medical causes. *"This should not happen on a full raw diet, right?", you may ask yourself.*

The real honest question you must ask yourself is:

"Does my pet really follow a fully raw diet... when considering his treats as well?"

We tend to forget treats as part of our pet's total diet. Treats may have the potential to make or break the holistic approach to a balanced raw diet.

Your choice in "treat product" may undo some of the benefits a fully raw diet may offer to your pet. Store bought treats are often grain-based baked biscuits, riddled with artificial flavours and preservatives. A daily treat of such a product may seem insignificant to you, however, it may just be enough to trigger an inflammatory response in your pet. If you are allergic to a specific product, you do not need big volumes of exposure to trigger an allergic response. Think about peanut allergy in humans...



EVERY PET DESERVES THE BEST NUTRITION

Ever wondered why some seemingly unrelated products are legally required to print warning labels on its packaging for possible peanut exposure? Small trace amounts are more than capable to trigger a massive allergic response. Be informed about the ingredients of your chosen pet treats and ask yourself whether it would benefit or risk your pet. You can also make healthier choices when selecting a treat for your pet.

Organic dog treats have higher nutritional value than most treats that is mass produced and available in stores. Being made from natural ingredients, using organic ingredients means there are no pesticides or fertilizers used to grow the produce, which makes the treats even safer and more nutritious for your pet.

Pawsome Treats are made using certified organic ingredients. This means our ingredients are sourced from suppliers that do not use modern synthetics like pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Irradiation, chemical food additives and industrial solvents are also avoided. We are proud to say the Pawsome team go to great lengths to ensure that our ingredients are honest and of outstanding quality.



Pawsome Raw offers the follow treats currently:

 **Carni Salami**

This brand new version of our old Carni-Worz is made from Venison muscle meat, Venison liver, lungs and heart we rinse it in raw apple cider vinegar and then proceed to create thinly sliced salami discs that is airdried and ready as the perfect training treat. Carni Salami is sold in 150g packets and needs to be kept dry and cool.

 **Bosveld Salami**

Made from venison tripe minced and soaked in raw apple cider vinegar. Bosveld salami is an exotic bosveld treat, dogs consider this as a high value treat and no nose can ignore the temptation.

 **Liver Biscotti**

A novel take, on traditional liver bread. Made from duck, rabbit or ostrich liver dried in bite size bits. This is a great training treat and not as messy as liver bread. Made from organic coconut flour it is a great alternative to biscuits loaded with regular flour and gluten.

 **Country cookies**

Duck, rabbit or ostrich liver mixed with fresh Turmeric and Ginger pulp and juice. We also add Rosemary, Alfalfa, Dandelion, Fenugreek seed, Kelp, Nettle, Rosehip, and Rooibos tea. Country cookies are healthy and definitely a great addition to your dog's diet.

 **Barnyard Cookies**

Made with venison liver we added Rooibos crunch, Moringa crunch, Cranberries, Banana chips, Pumpkin seeds. Bite size discs dried to form the perfect reward and low-calorie snack for your pet.

 **Salmon cookies**

Minced salmon mixed with organic sweet potatoes, thyme and Coconut flour. This is a olfactory overload and seems to be very popular for both cats and dogs. Thin biscuits dried for preservation can easily be broken into smaller pieces for small animals. Rich in omega 3 oils.

 **Salmon Biscotti**

Minced Salmon dried in coarse bite sized treats ideal for both Cats and dogs. Watch out fingers may be lost when treating your dog with this brand-new snack.

 **Liver loaf**

A 450 g liver bread loaf baked with organic ingredients, made with coconut flour and eggs, it is a perfect soft treat for puppy school and obedience training, remember this must be fed as part of daily food allowance.

CONTACT PAWSOME RAW FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFO...

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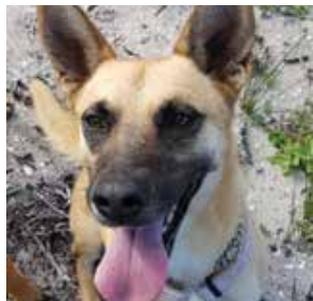
Looking for Love

A nation's worth of canine cuteness is yours to take in... right now!

TEARS (Cape Town)



FLASH is a sweet, middle-aged boy who is learning that you can get by with a little help from your friends and he forms a special bond with the people he loves. He enjoys the simple things in life like going on outings, snoozing in the sun and eating a tasty treat or two. Athletic, loyal and protective, he gets along well with older children and is good with other dogs but not cats. Can you offer this loyal lad the second chance that he deserves? Come and meet him, you're sure to fall in love!



DAISY likes to be in on all the action and has an athletic, outgoing and doting personality wrapped in regal finesse, with a splash of independent flare. She adores being the centre of attention and she's happiest when you stroke her soft fur. She isn't great with other animals and needs a home where she can be the only pampered princess. Daisy can be a devoted soul mate and protective guardian to a dog-savvy person, if only given the chance.



GEORGIA has the most soulful, sensitive eyes and she loves attention more than anything in the world. She's snuggly, friendly and loving, and loves cuddles just as much as she enjoys going for walks. She's happily living with a canine companion but can be selective about her doggy buddies and wouldn't mind having you all to herself. If you've got a soft spot for loveable dogs with the right amount of sass, please consider letting Georgia melt your heart.



HUGO - Entertaining, enthusiastic and charismatic - what more could an active, fun-loving family want in a dog? Hugo is loaded with character and personality and is always keen to meet new folks with a happy wiggle and outstretched paw. He's a comical clown with an infectious joyfulness and has many loves in his life, for example, racing along the beach, trying to be a lapdog, hiking up a mountain trail, hogging the bed, going for car rides and hanging out with his two- and four-legged friends.

DOGTOWN SA (Johannesburg)



SAWYER is a four-year-old, medium-sized Africanis boy who just wants a soft-natured person to love him. He is good with other dogs and doesn't mind cats either. One look into his soulful eyes and you will fall in love.



IZZY is a four-year-old, medium-sized Africanis girl with tons of personality. She prefers to be an only dog. If you adopt her, she promises to give you all her love and loyalty.



LOKI is a six-year-old, gorgeous Ridgeback boy. We think he is the most handsome dog in the land. Loki is social with people and other dogs and would make the perfect addition to your family.



LOLA is a nine-year-old golden oldy Husky mix girl. This beautiful girl loves people more than anything, but she's not a fan of other dogs and cats. She truly deserves a loving family and a home where she can live out her twilight years in peace and safety.

More from -

**DOGTOWN SA
(Johannesburg)**



TARZAN is a very unique, nine-year-old white German Shepherd mix. He adores people of all ages, shapes and sizes and is ready to become your best friend. Tarzan prefers to be an only child.

BOSTON TERRIER RESCUE SOUTH AFRICA (Countrywide)



RAMBO & TYSON'S parents had to move cities and unfortunately could not take them with them. They do not get on with other dogs, unfortunately, and need to go to a home where they will be only pets. They are playful and great with children. These gorgeous boys are six years old and in very good health. They are in Johannesburg in foster and can travel anywhere in South Africa.



TY & MAYA are two beautiful Boston Terriers who need a new home because their owners are emigrating. They are five years old and are both very



social with other dogs and cats and are good with kids. They love going for car trips, and a McDonalds ice cream outing is the best!



BRUNO is a healthy and happy five-year-old boy who is looking for his forever home. He will give you plenty of cuddles on demand. Sadly, Bruno and his friend came to BTRSA when his previous owner lost his home due to unforeseen financial circumstances. Can you give Bruno his happily ever after?

WHERE TO FIND THEM...

**TEARS (CAPE TOWN)
FLASH, DAISY, GEORGIA & HUGO**

TEARS Animal Rescue (The Emma Animal Rescue Society) is one of the country's leading organisations; its mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome domestic animals, as well as provide veterinary services to local communities. As a pro-quality of life, registered, non-profit organisation, we rely on the support of caring individuals and corporates to assist us in fulfilling our mission to bring relief to animals in distress, whether through intervention, education, medical assistance or rehoming. Located in the False Bay area of the southern Cape Peninsula, we typically serve the communities of Ocean View, Masiphumelele and Red Hill, Mountain View, and Capricorn, although we assist animals and guardians throughout the Western Cape when our services are needed. To adopt, foster or volunteer, please call us on – 021 785 4482 or email tears@tears.org.za. Visit our shelter at 4 Lekkerwater Road, Sunnydale, Cape Town, or our website on www.tears.org.za

**DOGTOWN SA
(JOHANNESBURG)
SAWYER, IZZY, LOKI, LOLA & TARZAN**

At Dogtown SA, our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome. Nestled in the Hennops mountains is the most remarkable sanctuary for dogs who have lost their families or have been rescued from dire situations. Every day the dedicated team at Dogtown provide individual care to each of these dogs in a peaceful, tranquil setting while they wait for their forever homes. There is often a misconception that all rescue dogs are going to be damaged in some way, but that's simply not true. There are plenty of wonderful dogs at Dogtown SA, who through no fault of their own have found themselves homeless and are just hoping for a second chance at a new life in a loving home. For more information visit www.barkingmad.co.za or to adopt, contact adopt@dogtownsa.org Telephone Dogtown SA on 076 044 1979 for any enquiries.

**BOSTON TERRIER RESCUE
SA (NATIONWIDE)
BRUNO, TY & MAYA, RAMBO & TYSON**

Boston Terrier Rescue is made up of a small group of dedicated volunteers from around the country. Together we rescue, rehabilitate and re-home abandoned, unwanted, neglected and surrendered Boston Terriers of any age. We network extensively and spread the word about Bostons that are in shelters, take fosters into our own homes and conduct extensive home checks to ensure that when we rehome a Bostie it is for life. We understand that people's circumstances can change, and we are always happy to assist with surrendered Bosties or finding the best possible forever home. We rehome Boston Terriers anywhere in South Africa. If you can't adopt, we need assistance with fostering, fundraising and home checks. Bostons struggle in the shelter/kennel environment, and by opening your home to a rescue, you are helping keep them out of shelters. Fostering in a loving home environment allows us to assess their personalities and match them to the perfect home. Fosters can be in your home from anywhere from two weeks to a month. If, for any reason, it does not work out we will remove the dog immediately. We cover all costs for the foster. Contact BTRSA on email - btrescuesa@gmail.com or visit our website on www.bostonterrier.org.za



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