



✦ *Highlights* ✦

continued on page 2



LIVING WITH DOGS

Battling Boredom

Dogs are a lot like children. If you don't give them something fun to do, they will make their own fun—and often not in ways you approve of.



Give your dog plenty of physical and mental exercise, and you get a happier, healthier, better-behaved dog. Well-exercised dogs bark less, chew less, sleep more, and rest easier when left home alone. They are also much less likely to rummage through the trash, attack the couch cushions, or pester you while you're trying to focus.

Leash walks are great brainteasers because of all the sensory information dogs get from them, but they don't count as aerobic exercise. Your dog needs to run, swim, or do something else that gets his heart pumping for at least 30 minutes every day.

Workouts for the body:

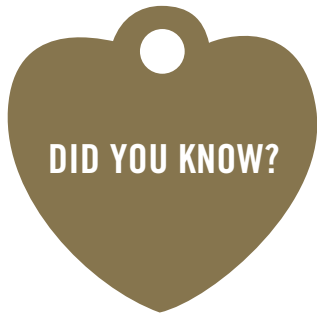
Chasing a ball or Frisbee. Swimming. Playing tug. Active play with other dogs. Off-leash romps or hikes. And if life is too busy, consider hiring a dog walker or, if your dog enjoys the company of other dogs, send him to doggie day care.

Workouts for the brain:

Work to eat. Biologically speaking, your dog is not supposed to have a bowl of kibble plunked down in front of him. He is a hunter by nature, meant to work for his keep. Mimic this by serving your dog's food in a Kong or treat ball. Your dog will spend the first part of the day figuring out how to get at his food and the rest of it recovering from the mental effort. Perfect!

Toys galore. Toys are a great way to engage your dog's brain. Dogs have distinctly individual toy preferences, depending on the day, time, and situation. Do some detective work and find out what truly tickles your dog. The best toys have a purpose. They deliver food, present a challenge, squeak, or make themselves interesting in some other way.

"There's no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face."
—Bern Williams



These Dogs Who Changed History?

Peritas. Alexander the Great's trusty companion who defended his master from a charging elephant during a battle and is credited with saving the life of the teenage commander.

Anonymous Newfie. During Napoleon Bonaparte's escape from his exile prison on the island of Elba, he fell overboard. A nearby fisherman's Newfoundland jumped in the water and rescued the pocket-sized tyrant who lived to see his Waterloo.

Donnchadh. The dog that ought to have been in Braveheart, Donnchadh belonged to Scottish nobleman Robert the Bruce. Though Englishmen followed the dog and thus tracked down Robert, their plan backfired when the dog put up a furious defense of his master. Robert the Bruce survived the encounter to become King of Scotland.

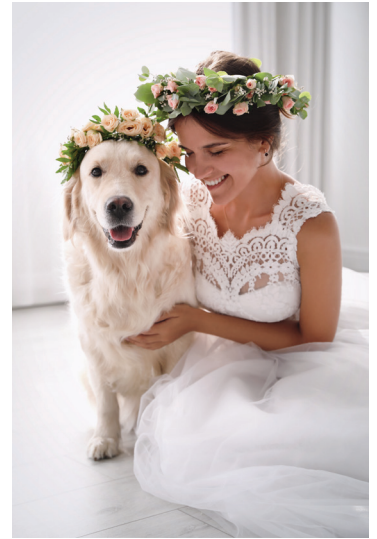


A WORLD OF DOGS

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Wedding Dogs

As dogs have become increasingly ingrained in our families and daily lives, the number of dogs participating in the actual wedding ceremony of their human parents has exploded. In a trend that's easily trackable in the age of Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter, dogs in tuxedos or wearing flower wreaths trailing happy couples as they walk down the aisle is an ever more common sight. On duty as ring bearers and flower girls—perhaps even as dog of honor—they pose for wedding photos, socialize at receptions, and boogie with two-legged guests. Some less socially inclined pooches are not physically present during the party but are mentioned in the vows or have their likenesses sculpted into wedding cakes or gracing fancy invitations.



And why not? Dogs are an integral part of the family, so including them in this ancient family ritual is only natural. Of course, when animals are involved, no amount of preparation and practice guarantees a perfect outcome; a sense of humor is essential in case the big day has a few canine-related glitches. Certain commonsense precautions will help keep mishaps to a minimum, though. Don't overdress the wedding dog, for example, lest she spend the entire ceremony trying to wiggle out of her outfit. It also pays to find a wedding photographer who is experienced working with pets—a well-timed squeaky toy can mean the difference between a so-so photograph and a lifelong treasured memento for the living room wall.

If the plan is to include a strong, young, nervous, or high-energy dog in your special day, getting help from a professional dog trainer can be well worth the investment, especially if the designated dog escort isn't used to dogs. Additionally, many wedding planners now offer pet-friendly services that take into account the quirks and demands of furry guests. Short of that, enlist help and back-up dog handling from dog savvy friends in attendance. After all, a wedding is about love and family, and for many of us, neither is complete without our four-legged friends.

(continued from page 1)



DOGS IN ACTION

Canine Parkour

If you're looking for a canine sport that can be enjoyed anywhere, requires no special equipment, and suits dogs of any size, shape, age, or energy level, canine parkour may be the answer for you and your best friend.

Canine parkour is a creative, flexible mash-up of agility and human parkour, where dogs are trained to navigate environments by jumping, crawling, climbing, and balancing across whatever they encounter in their path. It can be played in any environment, from an urban sidewalk to a suburban park to a forest floor.

And lest you worry you might be required to scale walls or jump from banisters like the parkour wizzes on YouTube, you can participate at your own fitness level, too. Creators, proponents, and trainers of the sport stress its flexibility and inclusiveness. Whether you guide your dog with your own feet firmly on the ground or match him leap for leap, there's plenty of fun to be shared.

To learn more: Read *Dog Parkour* by Anna Louise Kjaer (available at www.dogwise.com), visit the International Dog Parkour Association at www.dogparkour.org, or search for a local class.



HEALTHY DOG

Beware Bloat

Bloat, also known as twisted stomach, is a scary condition that results in death in 25–40% of cases. While the cause is unknown, we know risk factors include eating too fast or too much, drinking too much water, eating one large meal per day, stress, trauma, and a dry food-only diet. Any dog can get bloat, but the victims are overwhelmingly large, deep-chested breeds like akitas, boxers, basset hounds, Irish setters, great Danes, rottweilers, and German shepherds. Signs of bloat are a distended stomach, retching that doesn't produce anything, weakness, drooling, panting, pale gums, a galloping heart, and collapse. If you think your dog might have bloat, get him to a vet immediately.

Preventing bloat: Feed your dog several small meals per day instead of one large meal. Don't let your dog overeat or exercise vigorously right after eating. Don't use a raised food bowl unless your vet tells you to. Vary your dog's diet.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Saluki

These majestic dogs first appear on Sumerian wall carvings dating from 6,000 to 7,000 BC. Notable moments from there include depictions on Egyptian tombs, travel from ancient Iran to China via the Silk Road, and accompanying crusaders returning home from the Middle East to Europe.

While greyhounds are said to be the fastest dogs, it's a Saluki credited with the Guinness Book of Records' top dog speed, clocked at 42.8 mph. Having been bred by nomadic tribes in the Fertile Crescent to hunt fast quarry like gazelle, hare, fox, and jackal, their speed makes good sense. Using swiftness and sight to bring down prey, Saluki were also given a unique running start by Bedouin hunters who carried the dogs astride camels to throw them toward their fleeing victims.

Modern Saluki still enjoy a good chase and should be provided sanctioned opportunities through activities like fetch, flyball, or lure coursing to avoid them harassing fellow pets and wildlife.

To share your home with a Saluki, search for a sight hound rescue near you.



OUR SERVICES

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The Stoic Dog

Masking pain or illness is an evolutionary survival mechanism in dogs, which can sometimes make it hard to tell when your dog is feeling poorly. Here are some signs of trouble to look out for (when in doubt, always consult your vet):

Activity level changes: Lethargy, restlessness, or a less cheerful dog can mean something is wrong.

Mood swings: Happy one day, grouchy the next? Pain could be at the root. The same goes for a buddy who's happy in the morning, but cranky at night.

Sudden aggression: If an otherwise friendly dog, especially an adult, shows aggression, be sure to include pain as one of the chief suspects.

Loss of appetite: Could be pain, illness, or something less alarming, but a lack of appetite always warrants a trip to the vet.



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