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✧ Highlights ✧

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LIVING WITH DOGS

Management: Setting your dog up for success

Management is one of the most powerful tools in dog training—and one of the most overlooked. It simply means setting up your dog's environment in a way that prevents unwanted behavior and supports learning.

Prevent, don't punish: Dogs do what works.

If jumping, chewing, or chasing lead to fun or relief, they'll do it again. Management prevents the opportunity for these behaviors to occur in the first place, so your dog doesn't get to practice them. Think baby gates to block off tempting areas or putting the leash on before guests arrive.

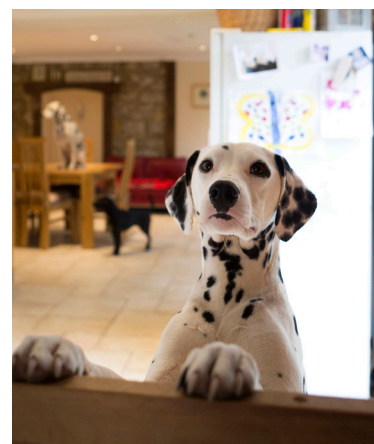
Set the stage for learning: Management isn't always a forever fix, but it gives you the breathing room to train without chaos. For example, using a harness and front-clip leash helps you walk your dog calmly while working on loose-leash skills. Crates and pens create safe downtime during busy parts of your day.

Lower stress (for everyone): When we reduce the chance of mistakes, both dogs and humans feel more confident. There's less frustration, fewer cleanups, and more time to notice and reward the behavior you do want.

It's not cheating, it's smart: Some people feel guilty using management, like it means they've failed at training. But the opposite is true. Management is how we make good behavior easier and unwanted behavior less likely. It's how we help dogs succeed while they're still learning the ropes.

Combine with training: While management keeps things under control, training builds the skills your dog needs long-term. Over time, you'll rely less on gates, tethers, or barriers—but in the meantime, they can be your best friends.

Think of management as your dog's training safety net. It keeps everyone happier, calmer, and better prepared for real progress.



"Expect your dog to act like a dog.
He's not being bad.
He's just being a dog."

—Jean Donaldson

DID YOU KNOW?

These giant dog facts?

Big dogs often turn heads, but there's more to them than size! These gentle giants have unique needs and traits that make them special.

Big hearts, big shadows: Many giant breeds are known for their calm, affectionate personalities. They often think they're lap dogs, even if they take up the whole couch!

Slow and steady: Giant breeds grow more slowly than smaller dogs. That means puppyhood lasts longer—and so does the need for joint-friendly play, positive training, and careful socialization.

Giants among us: Think Great Danes, Irish Wolfhounds, Saint Bernards, and Newfoundlands. These breeds can top 150 pounds and over 30 inches tall at the shoulder!

Giant dogs bring giant love and make loving, laid-back companions.



A WORLD OF DOGS

Dogs in mythology and folklore

Dogs have been part of our lives for thousands of years, and they've made their way into our stories, too. Across different cultures and times, dogs have been symbols of protection, loyalty, guidance, and sometimes mystery.

Anubis – the guardian of the afterlife

In ancient Egyptian mythology, Anubis was a jackal-headed god who helped guide souls to the afterlife and protect the dead. Jackals were often seen near burial sites, so it made sense for the Egyptians to connect them with the world beyond.



Cerberus – the three-headed guard dog

In Greek myths, Cerberus was a giant dog with three heads who guarded the entrance to the underworld. He made sure no souls escaped, and no living humans got in without permission.

Xólotl – the underworld guide

In Aztec mythology, Xólotl was a dog-like god who helped guide souls through the challenges of the afterlife. Some people today see a connection between these stories and the ancient Mexican dog breed, the Xoloitzcuintli.

Gelert – a tale of loyalty

A Welsh legend tells of Gelert, a brave dog who saved a baby from a wolf. The dog was mistakenly killed by his owner, who only discovered the truth too late. A village in Wales still tells this story, and even has a place called "Gelert's Grave."

Black Shuck – the ghostly hound

In English folklore, Black Shuck is a spooky dog said to roam the countryside, especially during storms. Some stories say seeing him brings bad luck, but others say he protects travelers.

Hachikō – a true story of devotion

In 1920s Japan, a dog named Hachikō waited every day at the train station for his guardian to come home, even after the man passed away. A statue now stands at the station, reminding everyone of the bond between humans and dogs.

These stories—some ancient, some more recent—show just how long dogs have been part of our lives, our beliefs, and our imaginations.

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DOGS IN ACTION

Truffle hunting dogs: Noses worth their weight in gold

Long before dogs fetched balls, some were fetching fungi. Truffle hunting is an age-old partnership between humans and dogs, built on one incredible skill: the canine sense of smell.

A rich history: Truffle hunting dates back centuries in Europe, especially in Italy and France. Traditionally, pigs were used to sniff out these prized underground mushrooms, but they had a habit of eating the goods! Dogs became the preferred choice for their trainability, gentler touch, and equally sharp noses.



How it works: Truffles grow beneath the soil near the roots of certain trees like oaks or hazels. Truffle-hunting dogs are trained to detect the strong scent of mature truffles and signal their location by pawing gently or sitting near the spot.

Modern-day treasure hunts: Today, truffle hunting happens around the world, including the U.S., Australia, and New Zealand. It's used both commercially and recreationally, with some dog lovers training their pets just for the fun and mental stimulation.

Top truffle breeds: Lagotto Romagnolos, a curly-coated Italian breed, are the traditional truffle dogs. But many breeds (and mixed breeds) with a strong nose and love of reward-based training can learn the skill, including Springer Spaniels, Poodles, and Labradors.

Truffle hunting isn't just about the tasty results—it's a beautiful example of teamwork, patience, and the magic of a dog's nose.



HEALTHY DOG

Active at any age: Exercise for puppies and seniors

They might be at opposite ends of life, but puppies and senior dogs share one important need: gentle, joint-friendly movement. Whether wobbly with youth or stiff with age, low-impact activity helps keep them healthy and happy.

Start slow and steady: Puppies are still growing, and older dogs may have arthritis or reduced mobility. Short, easy walks are safer than rough play or long runs.

Soft surfaces: Grass, dirt, or sand are kinder on joints.

Skip the jumping: Avoid stairs and high furniture. Use ramps or blocks as needed.

Try gentle games: Nose work and puzzle toys are great options.

Watch for fatigue: Puppies and seniors tire faster. Keep sessions short and restful.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bloodhound

With their long ears, wrinkled faces, and deep, soulful eyes, Bloodhounds are instantly recognizable—and their sense of smell is the stuff of legend. Originally bred for tracking game and people, they're still among the best scent dogs in the world.

Bloodhounds are gentle, affectionate companions known for their calm and steady nature. While not overly energetic, they do need regular exercise and plenty of sniffing time to keep their minds and bodies engaged. Scent work, nose games, or long leash walks are ideal outlets.

These dogs tend to be independent thinkers—thanks to their tracking instincts—so patience and positive reinforcement are key in their training.

Their droopy skin and long ears require some extra care to keep clean, and their distinctive baying voice isn't for everyone. But for those who appreciate their charm, Bloodhounds are loyal, loving, and endlessly fascinating.

To meet a Bloodhound in need of a home, search online for a local rescue group.



OUR SERVICES

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Reward timing 101: When to treat for best results

In dog training, when you treat matters just as much as what you give. Good timing helps your dog understand what they did right.

Reward the moment: Give the treat immediately—within one to two seconds—of the behavior you want to reinforce. Delay too long, and your dog may associate the reward with something else entirely.

Use a marker: A clicker or consistent word like “yes” can help bridge the gap between behavior and reward. It tells your dog, “That’s it!” and buys you time to deliver the treat.

Avoid accidental reinforcement: Don’t reward jumping, barking, or pulling by accident. If your dog sits politely and then jumps up, make sure you’re treating sit, not bounce!

Practice your timing: Pick an action while watching TV - someone sitting down - and say “yes” or click right as it happens. It’s a fun way to sharpen your training reflexes!



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