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✧ Highlights ✧

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LIVING WITH DOGS

Thinking about adding another dog?

It's easy to picture: two dogs curled up together, romping in the yard, entertaining each other while you finally drink a cup of coffee in peace. Sometimes that's exactly what happens. Other times, it looks more like double the barking, double the bills, and half the free time.

Know your why: A second dog can be wonderful if you're clear about your reasons. Hoping a new dog will "fix" behavior problems in your current one? Unlikely.

Dogs rarely teach each other good manners - more often, they copy what they see. A calm, confident dog may help a puppy settle in, but an anxious or reactive dog could feel more stressed with a new arrival.

Think about your dog: Not every dog wants a sibling. Some thrive with canine company, others prefer human attention and are happiest flying solo. Age and energy matter, too. A lively puppy might overwhelm a senior, while a mellow rescue could clash with a high-octane adolescent. Matching personalities helps set everyone up for success.

Plan the introduction: First impressions are important. Meet on neutral ground, keep leashes loose, and give plenty of space. Parallel walks are a gentle way to break the ice before moving indoors. At home, management is your best friend. Use gates, pens, and separate resources like food bowls, beds, and toys to avoid tension.

Expect an adjustment period: Even the best matches can take weeks or months to feel smooth. Don't panic if things seem rocky at first. Stick to routines, supervise closely, and make sure each dog gets one-on-one time with you. Some pairs grow into inseparable buddies, others coexist politely. Both can be a success.

Adding another dog means more joy, but also more responsibility. With realistic expectations and a thoughtful start, life with two (or more) can be deeply rewarding.



"The bond with a true dog is as lasting as the ties of this earth can ever be."

—Konrad Lorenz

DID YOU KNOW?

These teenage dog facts?

The teenage phase isn't just for humans. Dogs go through it, too! Adolescent pups (roughly 6–18 months) can be full of surprises.

Brains on pause, legs on go: Teenagers may seem to “forget” cues they once knew, as bodies mature faster than impulses.

Testing limits: Intense sociability, leash pulling, and boundary-pushing are normal parts of growing up, not signs of a “bad” dog.

Fear pops back up: Many teens go through a second fear stage. Let your pup set the pace, offering gentle support without pressure.

Adolescence can be bumpy, but with patience, play, and training, your pup will grow into a wonderful adult companion.



A WORLD OF DOGS

Decoding your dog's DNA

A decade ago, figuring out your dog's background usually meant a lot of guesswork: “He's got the ears of a shepherd, the legs of a greyhound, and the climbing ability of a mountain goat.” Now, dog DNA testing has gone mainstream, offering a scientific way to reveal the hidden story in your dog's genes.



How it works

Most kits are simple. You swab the inside of your dog's cheek (try explaining that part to them), send it off in the post, and wait while a lab compares their DNA to a massive database of breeds. Before long, you get a report full of pie charts, breed names, and sometimes a few surprises.

What you might learn

For many, the fun is uncovering breed mixes: your “Labrador” might turn out to be part Lab, part Border Collie, and part... Chihuahua? Beyond curiosity, some tests reveal inherited health risks, genetic quirks, or traits that explain behavior. That sudden digging obsession or need to herd your nephews may not be random after all.

The benefits

Knowing your dog's background can guide training, exercise, and healthcare. A genetic predisposition for joint issues might encourage earlier support, while discovering herding or hunting ancestry may help explain energy levels and play preferences. Some guardians say the biggest benefit is simply understanding their dog better, and a chance to finally settle the dog park debates.

A growing trend

As more dogs are tested, the databases grow, which means results are increasingly accurate. Early tests could be vague, but today's reports often provide detailed insights, right down to predicted adult weight and traits like coat type.

DNA testing won't replace good training or predict all behavior, but it can shine a light on your dog's unique heritage. And let's be honest, half the fun is finding out if your “mystery mix” really is part wolf, or just 10% Poodle and 90% expert couch surfer.

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DOGS IN ACTION

Built for speed: the athleticism of sighthounds

Greyhounds, Whippets, Salukis, and their relatives aren't just elegant couch potatoes. They're some of the fastest athletes in the canine world. Bred for centuries to hunt by sight and speed, their bodies show it.



Form meets function: With long legs, deep chests, and a flexible spine that works like a spring, sighthounds are designed to run. At top speed, they cover six or seven meters in a single stride. Greyhounds can reach up to 45 mph, earning their place as the Ferraris of the dog world.

The double-suspension gallop: Unlike most dogs, sighthounds run with a unique gait where all four feet leave the ground twice per stride - once when stretched out, once when tucked in. This gives them explosive acceleration and that signature, flowing motion.

History in motion: For thousands of years, sighthounds were bred to course hare, deer, and even gazelle across open landscapes, prized for both their speed and their keen eyesight. Ancient art from Egypt and Mesopotamia shows dogs that look remarkably like the Greyhounds and Salukis we know today.

Sprinters at home: Despite their speed, most sighthounds are famously laid-back. After a few minutes of zoomies, they're happiest curled up on the sofa, proving that even the fastest dogs in the world love a good nap.



HEALTHY DOG

Skin care for dogs

It's easy to admire a shiny coat and forget what's underneath. Skin is your dog's largest organ, and because it hides under fur, issues can easily be overlooked.

Look beneath the coat: Part the hair regularly to check for redness, scabs, or dry patches. Catching changes early makes treatment easier.

Mind the sun: Dogs with thin coats or little fur, like Greyhounds, Whippets, or Chinese Cresteds, are vulnerable to sunburn. Limit midday exposure and ask your vet about pet-safe sunscreen.

Breed considerations: Wrinkle-faced breeds need skin folds kept clean and dry, while allergy-prone dogs often show it through itchy skin.

Seek help early: Persistent scratching or sores deserve a vet visit. Healthy skin means a more comfortable, protected dog.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Shiba Inu

With their fox-like faces, curled tails, and bold personalities, Shiba Inus are one of Japan's most iconic breeds. Originally bred for hunting small game, they're compact, agile, and known for their confident, spirited nature.

Shibas are often described as independent and cat-like. They can be affectionate with their families but usually prefer to do things on their own terms. Early socialization and consistent positive reinforcement are important to help them navigate the world politely.

Exercise is essential. These dogs are quick, athletic, and happiest when they have both physical and mental outlets. Games that tap into their curiosity, along with daily walks, keep them satisfied.

Grooming is simple, but their double coat sheds heavily twice a year. Shibas are also famous for their "Shiba scream" - a dramatic yelp when stressed or excited. For those who appreciate their quirks, Shiba Inus are clever and endlessly charming companions.

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



OUR SERVICES

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Climbing the treat ladder

Not all treats are created equal, and your dog knows it! A “treat ladder” helps you discover which rewards your dog values most, so you can use them wisely in training.

Make it a game: Offer two different treats, like cheese and kibble, and see which one your dog chooses first. The winner moves on to the next round against a new option. Keep going until you have a clear ranking from “meh” to “must have.”

Write it down: Record the results so you know what works best for easy tasks and what to save for tougher training challenges. High-value rewards are perfect for distractions or recall.

Mix it up: Dogs’ preferences can change, so repeat the game every now and then.

Building a treat ladder is simple, fun, and a great way to unlock your dog’s ultimate motivators.



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