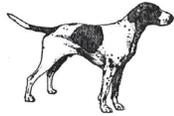




✦ *Highlights* ✦

continued on page 2



LIVING WITH DOGS

Teaching your dog to do nothing

You know what might be the most underrated skill a dog can learn? Doing nothing. Really. A dog who can settle quietly in a café, hang out on a mat while you chat with a friend, or chill after a walk? That's gold. Calm might not look impressive or fancy, but it's the foundation for just about everything else.

What does calm actually look like? It's not a frozen sit or a "stay" held under pressure. It's soft muscles, slow breathing, maybe a lazy tail thump. A dog who can take a deep breath, glance at the world, and decide it's fine. Emotional regulation is something we build over time, not something all dogs automatically know how to do. This is especially true for puppies and bouncy adolescent dogs.

One big challenge for many dogs is that modern life doesn't offer much rest. There's always a new sound, a new visitor, a new adventure. Without time to unwind, dogs can start to run on fumes. They become jumpy, barky, or restless, not because they're "naughty," but because their nervous systems never get to reset.

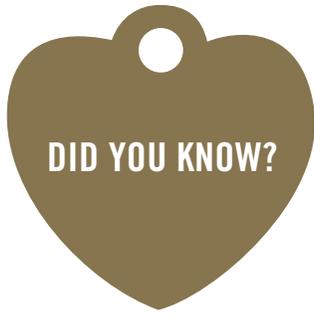
You can help by making calm a daily practice:

- Teach a relaxation cue like lying on a mat or settling on a bed. Reward slow breathing, quiet, and stillness.
- Mix activity with rest. After play or walks, allow for plenty of downtime so arousal levels come back down.
- Use natural calmers. Chews, licking mats, and sniffing are great ways to calm busy minds and bodies.
- Model it yourself. Your dog takes many of their cues from you. Aim for slow movements, soft voices, and predictable routines where possible.

A calm dog is one who can think, listen, and enjoy life more. So celebrate the "doing nothing" days. They're often where real training progress begins.



"I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me, they are the role models for being alive."
 —Gilda Radner



These Puppy Facts?

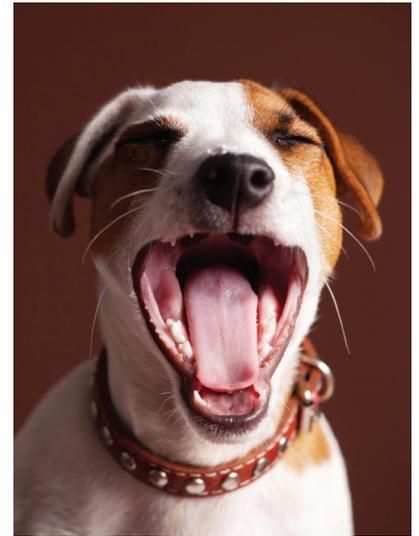
- Puppies are born blind, deaf, and toothless, but able to smell.
- Puppies begin developing permanent teeth around the 12-week mark.
- Puppies' eyes and ears begin to open at 10 to 16 days of age.
- Puppies spend on average 14 hours of every day sleeping.
- The growth rate of puppies varies widely, depending on the size of the dog. Birth weights can multiply more than tenfold within the first 7 to 8 weeks.
- Puppies go through several developmental stages early in life: neonatal (0-2 weeks), transitional (2-4 weeks), socialization (3-12 weeks), and adolescence (6-18 months).



A WORLD OF DOGS

Do dogs have a sense of humor?

If you've ever had a dog steal your sock and dart away with that unmistakable glint in their eye, you've probably wondered: are they laughing at me? While dogs don't giggle in the human sense, growing evidence suggests they may, in fact, have a sense of humor. Or at least a version of it that looks suspiciously similar.



Research into canine play behavior shows that dogs use exaggerated gestures, like play bows and bouncy movements, to signal fun and prevent misunderstandings. Some studies even suggest that dogs possess a "play face,"

a relaxed open mouth resembling a grin, seen most often when they're engaging socially. Patricia Simonet, a bioacoustician, famously recorded a distinct "play pant," which is a breathy exhalation used to invite play and defuse tension among dogs. When those recordings were played back to shelter dogs, many responded with visible enthusiasm, wagging and play-bowing to the invisible jokester.

Trainers and behaviorists have long observed dogs using humor-like behaviors, too. Think of the dog who gleefully instigates a chase game only to swerve just out of reach, or the dog who pounces on his sleepy playmate to get a reaction. These aren't just random antics. They're also social strategies, designed to connect and entertain.

Of course, a dog's humor has limits. Teasing can tip into stress if a game feels unpredictable or confusing. The magic lies in mutual enjoyment, that shared spark when you both understand it's all in the name of fun. Some dogs seem born comedians, inventing games to keep themselves and others entertained, while others may prefer to sit back and be curious observers.

So while dogs may not be writing stand-up routines anytime soon, they do seem to share our love of play, silliness, and maybe even a good laugh. Turns out, your canine family clown might just be in on the joke.

(continued from page 1)



DOGS IN ACTION

An urban adventure sport for dogs

Have you heard of dog parkour? This canine activity turns everyday surroundings into a playground. Parkour (from the French *parcours*, meaning “course”) began as a human sport built around agility, strength, and confidence. The canine version follows the same spirit, encouraging dogs to climb, balance, jump, and explore obstacles.



Confidence through movement: Dog parkour isn’t about daring stunts. It’s about helping dogs become more aware of their bodies and the world around them. Balancing on a low wall, stepping onto a park bench, or weaving through posts builds coordination, trust, and problem-solving skills.

Everyday adventure: You don’t need special equipment or a big budget. City sidewalks, parks, and even playgrounds offer endless opportunities. A sturdy log becomes a balance beam, a rock becomes a perch, and a curb makes the perfect “pause box.”

Safety first: Start low and slow. Surfaces should be stable, dry, and non-slip, and jumps shouldn’t exceed your dog’s shoulder height. Spot your dog as you would a child learning to climb. Always prioritize safety and calm over speed or height.

A team sport: The bond between dog and handler is at the heart of parkour. Encouragement, treats, and trust turn exploration into teamwork.

From shy rescue dogs to energetic athletes, parkour offers something for everyone, and a reminder that the world itself is one big adventure playground.



HEALTHY DOG

Brushing up on dog dental care

It’s easy to overlook your dog’s teeth until you catch a whiff of bad breath. But dental health is about far more than smell – it affects your dog’s overall wellbeing.

Check regularly: Lift your dog’s lips every week or two. Look for yellow buildup, red gums, or broken teeth. Small changes caught early can prevent painful infections.

Brush up: Daily brushing with a dog-safe toothpaste is the gold standard. Chews, dental wipes, or rinses can help, but nothing replaces the brush.

Prevention matters: Left unchecked, plaque hardens into tartar that can lead to gum disease and even affect the heart or kidneys.

A clean mouth means a healthier dog (and fresher kisses, too).

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Australian Kelpies

Tough, intelligent, and endlessly energetic, Australian Kelpies are the working heart of rural Australia. Bred to herd sheep across vast, rugged landscapes, they’re known for their stamina, quick thinking, and remarkable work ethic. These dogs don’t just follow directions; they make decisions on the move.

Kelpies thrive on having a job to do, whether that’s herding stock, mastering agility courses, or tackling puzzle games. Without enough exercise and mental stimulation, their boundless energy can quickly turn into mischief. They’re happiest when challenged and included in daily life.

Despite their intensity at work, Kelpies can be affectionate, dedicated companions at home. They bond deeply with their people and love being part of the action. Their short double coat is easy to maintain, though regular brushing helps manage shedding.

For those who value brains, drive, and heart in equal measure, few breeds compare. To meet an Australian Kelpie in need of a home, visit a shelter or rescue near you.



OUR SERVICES



Toy rotation magic

Dogs, a bit like toddlers, get bored with the same old toys. A toy rotation system keeps things interesting and prevents clutter, all without spending more.

Start simple: Divide your dog's toys into small groups and store most of them away. Every week or two, swap a few out. When "new" toys reappear, your dog will rediscover them with fresh enthusiasm.

Add variety: Mix textures and play styles, such as tug toys, chews, puzzles, squeakers, to encourage different interactions.

Try a toy swap: Trade a few favorites with a friend's dog. The novelty of new smells and a "borrowed" toy keeps things exciting!

Rotating toys keeps playtime engaging and helps you spot worn or unsafe toys before they cause trouble.



(575) 388-4101

misamigospetcare@gmail.com

www.misamigospetcare.com

11745 Hwy 180 E • Silver City, NM 88061



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