Pet Gazette

from Mis Amigos Pet Care Center

Fall Is Coming!
Bring on the Cooler Temperatures!

Highlights

The New Yards Are a Hit!

Our daycare dogs and our staff are all enjoying the heck out of our new yards! The artificial turf keeps the dogs cleaner which pet guardians like. The solid fencing has improved behavior in the daycare dogs - no one to "yell" at through the fence. Shade structures, misters and sandboxes allow dogs to keep cool in the heat.

Notice the article to the right? Daycare staff are trained to maintain polite, safe play and be sure that all dogs are enjoying themselves. If you think your dog might enjoy canine company, consider a meet and greet with us.

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"If you want to know the meaning of life, get a dog."
–Mark Rowlands



LIVING WITH DOGS

So, you want your dog to make friends?



There's something hopeful about a dog playdate. You spot another dog who seems friendly. Your dog is interested. You imagine them becoming best friends, racing around while you sip coffee and chat. Sometimes that's exactly what happens. And sometimes one dog spends the entire time hiding behind your legs while the other repeatedly body-slams them into a shrub.

Like many things in the dog world, successful introductions are less about luck and more about setting things up well.

One mistake people make is assuming dogs should sort things out for themselves. While some dogs are naturally social, meeting a stranger can be a big deal. Imagine being dropped into a room with an unfamiliar person and being told, "Go on, become friends."

A few things can help make first meetings go more smoothly:

- Choose a neutral location rather than bringing a new dog straight into someone's home or yard
- Start with a walk together instead of a face-to-face greeting
- Give dogs plenty of space and freedom to move away if they want to
- Keep leashes loose if they're needed, and avoid forcing interactions
- Take breaks if excitement starts building too high

It's worth remembering that not every dog wants, needs, or is suited to playdates, and that's okay. For those that do, not every successful playdate involves play. Sometimes success looks like two dogs calmly sniffing the same area, or a short walk together with little interaction.

Dogs don't need to love every dog they meet any more than we need to become best friends with every person we encounter. The goal isn't universal friendship. It's helping dogs feel safe, comfortable, and able to make good choices around one another.

And if a playdate ends with both dogs peacefully ignoring each other? Honestly, that's often a pretty good result.

DID YOU KNOW?

These canine cousin facts?

Dogs belong to a family called Canidae, which includes wolves, foxes, coyotes, jackals, dingoes, and several lesser-known wild relatives.

- There are 36 living species in the Canidae family
- Canids are found on every continent except Antarctica
- Genetic evidence suggests dogs were first domesticated from an ancient wolf population at least 15,000 years ago
- The gray wolf is the dog's closest living relative
- Dogs and wolves can interbreed and produce fertile offspring
- Coyotes are more closely related to dogs than foxes are
- The African wild dog may look like a domestic dog, but it belongs to its own distinct branch of the canine family tree



A WORLD OF DOGS

How did dogs become dogs?



At some point in the distant past, a group of wolves started hanging around humans. That much we know. What we don't know is exactly how, when, or why it happened.

Dog domestication is one of the biggest mysteries in animal history.

For a long time, the popular story was that humans deliberately captured wolf pups and bred them into dogs. While that may have happened in some cases, many researchers now think the process was probably less intentional than that.

One leading theory is called the self-domestication hypothesis. The idea is that some wolves were naturally less fearful of people and began scavenging around human campsites. These wolves gained access to food, while humans benefited from having alert animals nearby. Over many generations, the friendlier and more tolerant wolves were more successful, gradually becoming different from their wild relatives.

Other researchers argue the relationship may have been more cooperative from the start. Wolves could have helped humans locate prey, track animals, or provide protection, creating a partnership that benefited both species.

Exactly when this happened is also debated. Estimates range from around 15,000 years ago to more than 30,000 years ago. What is clear is that domestication changed dogs in ways that go far beyond appearance. Compared to wolves, dogs tend to be more socially flexible, more responsive to human communication, and more willing to seek out our attention and assistance.

In a sense, dogs didn't just evolve alongside us. We evolved alongside them, too. For thousands of years, both species have been influencing each other's lives, behavior, and success.

Which means that every time your dog checks in with you on a walk, follows a pointing gesture, or curls up beside you on the couch, you're seeing the result of a partnership that has been developing for thousands of generations.

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Our new groomer, Arden Couturier, is enjoying his new position and would love to groom your dog and have them looking his/her best! His appointment book fills up quickly, so be sure to call in advance. If you are interested in training classes for your dog, give us a call. Our trainer offers group classes as well as private lessons.



DOGS IN ACTION

The dogs helping save endangered species



When most people think of conservation work, they picture scientists, drones, camera traps, or people trekking through remote wilderness. They probably don't picture a Labrador sniffing around a forest.

But conservation detection dogs have become an important tool in wildlife research around the world.

Nose for science: These dogs are trained to locate things that would be difficult for humans to find, including animal scat, feathers, nests, invasive plants, and even rare wildlife. Their extraordinary sense of smell allows them to detect targets hidden underground, high in vegetation, or spread across large landscapes.

Finding what humans miss: Conservation dogs have been used to locate threatened species such as quolls, koalas, powerful owls, wolves, and even whales.

Non-invasive research: One of the biggest advantages is that dogs can often find evidence of animals without disturbing them. A scat sample, for example, can provide information about diet, genetics, hormones, health, and population size without researchers ever needing to capture the animal.

Built for the job: Not every conservation dog is a traditional working breed. Many successful detection dogs are rescues chosen for their enthusiasm, persistence, and love of searching. In fact, the qualities that make some dogs challenging pets can make them excellent conservation partners.



HEALTHY DOG

A quick health check for your dog

Dogs are remarkably good at carrying on as normal when something isn't right. That's one reason regular at-home health checks can be so useful.

Eyes and ears: Your dog's eyes should be bright and clear, without excessive discharge or redness. Ears should be clean and free from strong odors, redness, or irritation.

Nose to tail: Run your hands over your dog's body. You're looking for any new lumps, bumps, areas of sensitivity, or changes in their coat and skin.

Check the mouth: Healthy gums are usually pink and moist. Teeth should be free from tartar buildup or obvious damage.

Watch how they move: Pay attention to how your dog gets up, lies down, climbs stairs, jumps into the car, or moves after exercise. Small changes are sometimes one of the first signs that something is off.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dalmatian

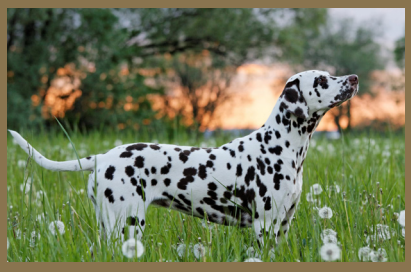
Instantly recognizable thanks to their distinctive spotted coats, Dalmatians are one of the world's most iconic dog breeds. Originally developed as carriage dogs, they would run alongside horses and carriages, helping to guard both the animals and their passengers on long journeys.

Dalmatians are energetic, athletic dogs with impressive stamina. Bred to cover long distances, they typically enjoy active lifestyles and benefit from plenty of exercise and mental enrichment.

While often portrayed as outgoing and social, Dalmatians can also be sensitive. They tend to form strong bonds with their families and often appreciate being involved in daily life rather than left on the sidelines.

Their famous spots aren't present at birth. Dalmatian puppies are born with plain white coats, with their spots gradually appearing over the first few weeks of life.

For people looking for an active companion with a fascinating history, the Dalmatian can be a wonderful match. To meet a Dalmatian in need of a home, find a breed-specific rescue near you.



OUR SERVICES

Dog Boarding - Designed with your dog's comfort in mind, they'll enjoy spacious, climate controlled, private rooms with their own doggy door to the outdoors, as well as quality meals and treats, several exercise breaks in our large yards, and companionship all day - human and canine! Daycare, play time, nature walks, hugs-n-cuddles, and training are also available.

Cat Boarding - Each guest enjoys a 3 room condo with comfortable bedding, two yummy meals per day, fresh water, turnout time in the cattery and entertainment from live birds through their large window!

Daycare - While you work, run errands, or you just want your dog to have a day of fun in the sun (or shade)! Summer Hours for Open Play are available M-F, 7:30 am - 6:00 pm. (Full, Half Day or Hourly). You may drop off as early as 7:30 am, must pick up by 6 pm.

Grooming - Our professionally trained groomers are available M-F. Services include: Luxury bath, blow dry and brush, trimming, styling, and nail trims finished with a Dremel for smoothness.

Retail – Training solutions, quality natural treats, sturdy toys, grooming supplies - we have it all! Woof Pet, Kong, West Paw, Happy Howie's, and Ruffwear are some of the many brands we carry.

Training - Puppy Start Right, Hey You! Pay Attention!, Walk with Me, Get Over Here!, Skills for Out & About, Manners Level I & II and Group Walks are some of the classes we offer. We also offer private lessons.

Mis Amigos Pet Care Center – Always The Best for Your Pets because Your Friends Are Our Friends! Summer Office Hours: 7:30am-6:00pm)

TIPS & TOOLS

Choosing a vet for your dog

A good vet can make a huge difference to your dog's health and well-being. But how do you choose one?

Look beyond location: Convenience matters, but so do communication, appointment availability, and the services offered.

Notice how they handle dogs: Gentle, low-stress handling can help your dog feel more comfortable and make future visits easier.

Ask questions: A good vet should be happy to explain options, discuss costs, and answer your concerns.

Think long-term: Ideally, you're looking for someone who can support your dog through every stage of life, not just emergencies.

Trust your instincts: You should feel comfortable, listened to, and involved in decisions about your dog's care.

The right vet is one who supports both your dog's health and your confidence as their guardian.

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