



✦ *Highlights* ✦

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LIVING WITH DOGS

The 5 Pillars of Successful Dog-Dog Greetings

1. Ask first, greet later. Always ask the guardian’s permission before you let your dog meet another dog. The other dog might be shy, fearful, leash reactive, or—who knows?—in training to learn better greeting manners. This goes doubly for dogs in off-leash areas: If the other dog is on leash, there’s probably a reason. Call your dog to your side and clip on the leash until you are well past the other person.



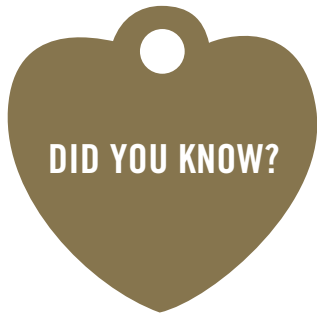
2. No pulling to say hi. Your chances of a successful greeting increase if your dog doesn’t come on too strong. Even between dogs it’s not considered polite to rush up and put your nose into someone else’s face. Insist on loose-leash walking on the approach. If your dog strains at the leash, change direction for a few steps and then try approaching the other dog again.

3. Relax. If you feel anxious about the greeting, your dog may pick up on it and react with over-excitement or fear. Take a deep breath, put on your best happy voice, and keep the leash nice and loose—a taut leash can add unintended tension.

4. Keep’em short and sweet. Even if two dogs are getting along famously, it’s a good idea to cheerfully encourage your dog to walk away with you after 5–10 seconds. Why? If a fight is going to happen on leash, duration is almost always a component because leashed dogs don’t have the option of increasing social distance when uncomfortable.

5. Don’t force it. If your dog doesn’t seem interested in saying hello, don’t insist. Not all dogs enjoy the company of other dogs, and many dogs feel less comfortable saying hello while on leash. That’s okay, too.

“The social contract between humans and dogs might be the best bit of business we have ever done.”
—Paul Howard



These Doggie Facts?

Memory. Unless trained or specifically taught through repetition, dogs have a relatively short-term memory span. Studies suggest that under normal circumstances (i.e. non-traumatic) dogs remember things for only 5 minutes. Cats, by contrast, remember for up to 16 hours.

Yawning. Don't think boredom. Dogs yawn for a few different reasons, most often stress—of the good or bad kind. Anxious dogs often yawn to release tension, as do pooches who know a walk is coming and just can't wait.

Eyesight. Dogs have better low-light vision and a wider vision span than humans. However, their ability to discriminate color trails far behind ours. Dogs have the equivalent of human red-green color blindness.



A WORLD OF DOGS

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A Genius For Survival

Is one-of-a-kind diversity a contradiction in terms? No, that's just dogs for you. *Canis familiaris* is the only species on the planet that contains the extreme variety of the Great Dane and the Chihuahua, the Dachshund and the Rottweiler, the Yorkshire Terrier and the Bernese Mountain Dog. There are, give or take a few, four hundred breeds within this one species. We dog lovers like to think we know why this has happened. It's the dog-human thing. The special bond, the partnership that has had people and pooches sharing campfires for at least 15,000 years. (Possibly much longer: A study by evolutionary biologist Robert Wayne suggests humans domesticated dogs as long ago as 40,000 years.)



Because of this connection, we have been breeding dogs to meet our work and leisure needs for several millennia. Collies and Kelpies to herd our sheep, Huskies to pull our sleds, Afghan Hounds and Basenjis to help us hunt. And humans are obviously a large part of the reason dogs are so diverse today. Another part is natural selection. For example, dogs tend to grow larger in northern climes to cope with the cold. But that still leaves unanswered the question of how it's possible. Why, of all creatures, do dogs have plastic DNA, the kind that allows for the deliberate cultivation of digging skills, longer noses, or skin folds that capture smell molecules? And how is it possible to make these changes so quickly? In just a few generations, we have created dogs that are wildly divergent in type and ability.

Nobody has the answer yet. Some favor the idea of an accident of evolution: Elephants have trunks, dogs have malleable DNA. Another theory is that it's a survival skill, developed in the course of the time dogs have been in contact with humans. Look at the evidence. There are an estimated 900 million dogs in the world today. Compare this with the estimated 200,000 wolves left in the wild and it's hard to deny that dogs as a subspecies possess a genius for survival.

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DOGS IN ACTION

Guide Dogs

Probably the best known assistance dog is the guide dog. We've all seen a Lab (or Golden Retriever or German Shepherd) wearing the special harness while carefully guiding their blind owner across the street or down the sidewalk. Here are three interesting facts about guide dogs you might not know:



1. A guide dog can't read traffic signals. He takes directional cues from his owner, who judges traffic by sounds. However, if it's not safe to go when the owner says "forward," the guide dog has been taught what's called intelligent disobedience and won't proceed until no cars are close or the path is clear of obstacles.

2. You may know not to pet a working guide dog, but do you know why? Your well-meant cuddle isn't a simple distraction, it's the equivalent of taking the wheel from someone who's driving. One of the biggest challenges guide dog owners face is public interference. So no matter how adorable that pooch is, resist the urge to touch.

3. Guide dogs are carefully matched with their new owners. In addition to personality, lifestyle, and living arrangement considerations, the pair is matched down to how fast they walk and how much pull the person prefers from a dog.



HEALTHY DOG

Bad Breath In Dogs

Bad breath is a common but highly treatable problem in dogs. The smell, caused by bacteria in your dog's mouth, stomach, or lungs, most often signals a dental or gastric issue. Sudden or unusually foul breath, however, can indicate serious illness. In all cases, a visit to the vet is important. Don't assume that unpleasant "dog breath" is normal and something you have to live with. Think of your dog's oral hygiene as you would your own: An integral part of daily well-being and long-term health. Some prevention tips:

1. Feed your dog high-quality food. 2. Brush your dog's teeth regularly. Every day is ideal; twice a week is a minimum. 3. Give your dog hard chew toys. Chewing is nature's teeth-cleaning tool for dogs. 4. Use breath-improvement products. Good ones exist, but do your research so you don't buy something that's essentially a biscuit and nothing more.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Border Collie

A medium-sized dog with a maximum-sized engine. Border Collies excel at sheep dog trials, agility, flyball, disc dog competitions, canine freestyle, tracking, and competitive obedience—and make excellent search & rescue dogs. Topping Stanley Coren's list of intelligent dogs, these highly trainable exercise- and mental stimulation addicts are happiest when they have a job to do. Originally bred for herding, Border Collies still work on farms in many parts of the world, but some now hold jobs in animal cognition research, too. One dog, Chaser, is famous for identifying and retrieving 1,022 toys by name. Famous past fanciers include Queen Victoria and 18th century Scottish poet laureate Robert Burns. In popular culture, Border Collies of note are Fly and Rex, the herding dogs in the movie *Babe*, and The Dog, hero of the classic comic strip *Footrot Flats*.

For a Border Collie to tend your flock of sheep, search online for a rescue organization near you.



OUR SERVICES

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Cleaning Doggie Stains & Odors

Carpets and upholstery. Soak up as much of the mess as you can. Rinse the area with plenty of cool water, then soak up the water. Repeat as needed until the accident spot is clean and barely damp. Finally apply a high-quality pet odor neutralizer. Avoid steam cleaners—the heat can make stains and smells set permanently.

Clothes and linens. Machine wash either with an enzymatic cleaner or by adding a pound of baking soda to your regular detergent. If possible, air-dry the items. Again, heat can make remaining animal protein bond to the material.

Floors and walls. Washable enamel paints and some types of wallpaper can be cleaned with enzymatic cleaners, but generally, if varnish or paint is damaged, you'll have to refinish the surface. Consult with your local hardware store for options.



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