



✦ *Highlights* ✦

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LIVING WITH DOGS

Let Them Sniff

We all know dogs require daily exercise to thrive. But in the rush to provide our canine companions with a good cardio workout, we may be overlooking another equally important need: The need to sniff.

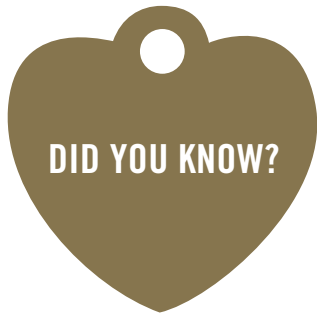


Sniffing is central to a dog’s experience of his environment. Consider the daily dog walk. As we put one foot in front of the other alongside our best friends, our human eyes scan the scene in front of us to make sense of our surroundings. But for our dogs, it’s their nose that knows—and it knows more than we can begin to imagine. Just sniffing a patch of grass, for instance, can reveal detailed information about other dogs who have passed through the area, including their gender, age, diet, how recently they stopped by, and much more.

Think of sniffing as the canine equivalent of a mental workout. We have our work and hobbies, problems and puzzles, and Shakespeare and physics to keep our minds occupied and sharp. Dogs have an infinite world of smells to catalog and interpret. A good dog walk then, is a balance of physical and mental exercise. And that means taking time to smell the roses—or at least allowing your dog to do so. Give your dog plenty of time to sniff what interests him, especially on short potty walks where physical exercise isn’t a focus.

Let your dog initiate sniff breaks on longer walks, too. If you worry about your dog getting enough physical activity, try adding some running to your walks, or games of fetch or tug during walks or at home. Also keep in mind that mental exercise can be quite taxing all on its own (just think how tired we humans can feel after a day of hard thinking work). So next time you put on your tennis shoes and reach for the leash, try rephrasing that age-old question to “Wanna go for a sniff?”

“My fashion philosophy is, if you’re not covered in dog hair, your life is empty.”
 –Elayne Boosler



The Most Popular Dog Names?

Of all time, female:

Molly, Bella, Daisy, Maggie, Lucy, Ginger, Bonnie, Sadie, Sophie, Lady

Of all time, male:

Max, Jake, Buddy, Jack, Cody, Charlie, Bailey, Rocky, Sam, Buster

Today, female:

Bella, Luna, Lucy, Daisy, Lily

Today, male:

Charlie, Max, Bailey, Cooper, Rex

Naming trends:

The steady stream of Marvel movies has seen over 30% more dogs named after characters like Loki since 2018. Disney-inspired names are on the rise, too, with Elsa, Simba, and Lady among the most popular.

55% of dog lovers say their pet has a human name—no surprise after looking at the lists of favorites above.



A WORLD OF DOGS

Dogs in the Workplace

One of the hardest things about living with dogs is leaving them behind every day for the office. Those puppy-dog eyes can really do a number on a dog lover. Fortunately, more and more workplaces welcome dogs. That improves the lives of dogs, their guardians, and the company's bottom line.



Employers report reduced absenteeism and longer average work hours among employees who bring their dogs to work. In turn, employees who share their workdays with their dogs say it boosts their creativity and productivity while also increasing positive social interactions with colleagues. It's no surprise that more and more dog lovers cite a dog-friendly environment as one of the things they look for in a job search.

Of course, not all workplaces are appropriate for our four-legged companions. Not all dogs are a match for those that allow them, either. Shy and fearful dogs are likely happier left in the predictable peace and quiet of home, where strangers don't appear around every corner. Dogs that are uncomfortable around fellow canines may find the confined spaces of a typical office—cubicles, elevators, hallways, and the like—too challenging to share. And most dogs with lots of extra energy will prefer a dog walker over having to chill in the office for hours on end.

Should you have the opportunity to decide if your dog is a good workplace candidate, consider the comfort of coworkers, too. Live with a dedicated barker? All that canine shouting can be distracting to others' productivity. If you do bring your dog to work, engage in positive reinforcement training to teach your dog office manners like sitting to say hello and staying on her bed when you need to focus. Speaking of dog beds, the right office gear will help set you and your best friend up for success. Invest in a good baby gate if you don't have an office door, keep stain and odor remover on hand, and don't forget to bring plenty of chews and toys to keep your dog gainfully employed while you work.

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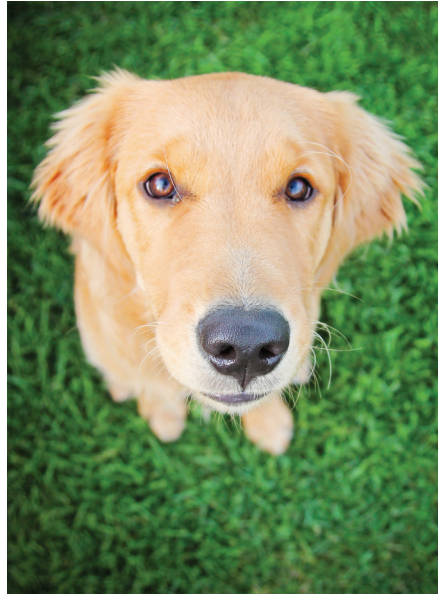
DOGS IN ACTION

Seizure-Alert Dogs

Service dogs most often bring to mind guide dogs for the blind and hearing dogs for the deaf. Seizure-alert dogs serve their people by warning of an oncoming seizure, allowing time for safety precautions like lying down, taking medication, or proactively calling for assistance.

The ability to sense an oncoming seizure appears to be strongly innate to some dogs, requiring testing for the ability before selection for training. Alert behaviors to warn of an impending seizure episode range from whining or barking to pawing or pacing. Dogs are trained to be persistent, engaging in the alert behavior until they've won their person's full attention.

Other dogs serve as seizure-response dogs. These canine companions don't alert ahead of a seizure, but know what to do when one occurs. They might be trained to activate an alarm to call for help, for example, or to fetch a telephone, or simply lie next to their person to protect against injury. Many seizure-alert dogs learn these valuable behaviors as well. To learn more, visit the Assistance Dogs International website.



HEALTHY DOG

We Are What We Eat

We are what we eat. It's a common saying about human nutrition, acknowledging the critical link between our health and our diet. And it's true of dogs, too.

The question of canine nutrition has garnered increasing attention over the last couple of decades, bringing an ever-burgeoning pet food market in its wake. The choices are endless, from kibbles to cans to dried foods, food rolls, frozen raw diets, the butcher shop, and home-cooked formulas.

If all these choices have you wondering what to feed your dog, subscribe to *The Whole Dog Journal* (www.whole-dog-journal.com). A sort of *Consumer Reports* for dog lovers, they've spent a couple of decades deftly decoding conflicting pet food advice and the newest research studies to keep readers up to date with straightforward guidance on the pros and cons of various diets. They publish yearly best-and-worst commercial pet foods lists, too—an invaluable tool when faced with shelf upon shelf of options.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Doberman

The Doberman is a medium-large, highly trainable breed with a colorful origin story dating to the 1880s. While running the dog pound in Apolda, Germany, Karl Friedrich Louis Dobermann began mixing breeds, looking to create an intelligent guard dog to protect him in his other role as local tax collector. There's no consensus on which breeds ultimately resulted in the handsome, intelligent Doberman, but most experts cite Beauceron, German Pinscher, Rottweiler, and Weimaraner. It is also commonly thought that the old German Shepherd made a major gene contribution.

The Doberman has enjoyed popularity and honor throughout its history. After the US Marine Corps adopted the breed as its official war dog, a Doberman named Cappy saved 250 Marines by alerting them to Japanese soldiers, and was the first dog to be buried in the WWII War Dog Memorial. Today Dobermans brighten many dog lovers' lives as affectionate pet dogs.

For a Doberman to guard your heart, search online for a rescue organization near you.



OUR SERVICES



A Harmonious Multi-Species Household

Cats and dogs can live peacefully together, but getting off on the righter paw, is much easier than trying to smooth out already ruffled fur. Here are a few tips...

Go slow. For the first week or so, let your cat and dog coexist without meeting, getting used to each others' presence and smell. Make the first several introductions with your dog on leash, allowing your cat to approach and leave at will. Keep meetings brief, graduating to a dragged leash if all goes well.

Give kitty a safe space. Maintain a cat-only zone that your cat can access at all times. Put her food, water, and litter box in this room so she can relax dog-free as desired.

Keep an eye on it. As their relationship grows, continue to monitor interactions. Offer praise and treats for calm, polite behavior toward the other, and redirect to alternate activities if you notice tension.



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