



✦ *Highlights* ✦

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LIVING WITH DOGS

5 Tips for Easier Walks

Use the Best Equipment. Walks should be enjoyable and pain-free, for you and your dog both. Use humane no-pull equipment that employs natural counter-balance approaches to curb pulling without the use of pain or the risk of tracheal damage. There are many choices on the market these days. Ask a positive reinforcement trainer to help you choose the option best suited to your dog's body and snout shape, and her pulling behavior and intensity.



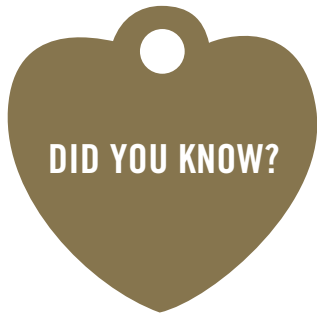
Walk Aware. Be on the lookout for cats, birds and small animals, other dogs, and toddlers who could get knocked over by a high-energy pooch. Ask for your dog's attention, or cross the street or wait out of sight behind a parked car if needed.

Walk Prepared. Carry treats or a favorite toy to reward pleasing manners like sitting at curbs, not barking at other dogs, not chasing birds, polite greetings of friendly humans, and loose-leash walking. Any behavior you reinforce is going to happen more often. In other words: If you like it, reward it.

Walk Often. If your dog's workout regiment amounts to a stroll around the block twice a day, surplus energy and under-stimulation will make it tough for him to behave when you take him out and about. The remedy? Amp it up. Find ways to allow him off-leash runs or playtime with other dogs, throw balls or Frisbees, take long hikes, hire a dog walker, or use a doggie daycare. The more exercise your dog gets, the more calm and attentive he'll be.

Get Help. If your dog is very challenging to walk, consider hiring a trainer to help you—or, if you're already working with a trainer, ask his or her advice. Your walks, too, can be a picture of interspecies harmony.

"Some of my best leading men have been dogs and horses."
—Elizabeth Taylor



These Canine Skills & Traits?

Dogs don't understand "right" and "wrong." They are amoral. (Not immoral!)

Dogs do divide the world into good-for-dogs, bad-for-dogs, and neutral.

Dogs master reading body language and understanding hand signals.

Dogs are less terrific at reading our minds and understanding verbal language.

Dogs can navigate complex social worlds—among other dogs.

Dogs can't think in abstract concepts the way humans do.

Dogs are highly social creatures. Marvelous trial-and-error learners. Easy to motivate.

Dogs are not born to please us. Not innately able to appreciate the value of Italian shoes.



A WORLD OF DOGS

Who Tamed Who?

The story has long been that we domesticated the dog. Current scientific consensus is that dogs have been our companions for at least 15,000 years. We've imagined that perhaps a hunting-gathering ancestor came across abandoned wolf pups, raised them, bred their offspring, and eventually found him or herself with reliable companionship.



But now many scientists are questioning that theory, considering another in its place. Called the "domestication hypothesis," it goes like this: Some clever wolves began skirting human encampments to take advantage of scraps. Over time their population grew bolder and less fearful, and they turned their natural social skills toward better understanding of and communication with the bipedal species they'd come to rely on. In short, they self-domesticated.

Several threads of the self-domestication hypothesis are under investigation. One aspect of study is dogs' social intelligence, their ability to read and understand human body language, and to make their own understood by us. Another is the emotional connection dogs are able to forge with humans and the role this may have played in early wolf-human relationships. A third point of study is referred to as conflict-management strategy, the idea being that humans would likely have killed or run off more aggressive wolves, while tolerating those who were more deferential.

Regardless of who tamed who, the rest, as they say, is history. We've shared a mutually beneficial relationship ever since, one that in recent generations has begun to transform even our notion of family. Dogs have moved from table scraps to their own gourmet diets. We provide them with specialized health care, a place in our homes, their own toys and plush beds—or invite them to share ours. If dogs (or, rather, their wolf ancestors) did indeed instigate domestication, it was certainly a clever move on their part!

Scientists are studying this question not only to better understand dogs, but humans as well. By looking at the processes of domestication and its effects on genes and the brain, scientists hope to gain insight into how we humans came to be as unique from our own hominid relatives as dogs are from their wolf ancestors.

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DOGS IN ACTION

SUP With Your Pup

If you and your dog both love water, stand-up paddle boarding (SUPing) is a great way to enjoy the water with your best friend. SUPing is an easy sport to master and has the added benefit of not requiring a large investment in equipment—just a board and a paddle and you're good to go!



Well, maybe not quite. Before you decide to hit the lake with your four-legged companion, a little training is in order to make sure he or she enjoys the outing. Some dogs take to a paddle board instinctively, but most will need a careful introduction to make sure they come to love the sport as much as you do. Training consists of teaching your dog to love your board and paddle, how and when to jump aboard and disembark (no pun intended), and how to balance to keep you both on the board instead of in the lake.

Fortunately, done properly, this training is fun for you both. You can find videos online or, for a complete tutorial, check out Tawzer Dog's *What's SUP, PUP?* DVD. Once you've got your training plan in place, there's nothing left but to hit the water with your best friend!



HEALTHY DOG

Signs of Poisoning

Every year, hundreds of thousands of dogs suffer from some form of poisoning—and the culprits in the vast majority of cases are common household and garden products. Drugs such as cold and flu preparations, painkillers, and antidepressants; insecticides and rodent bait; plants like sago palms and azaleas; cleaning agents like bleach, detergent, and disinfectant; and outdoor toxins like antifreeze and fertilizers. Always keep such hazards in locked cabinets or on high shelves, well out of reach of your dog. Also be aware that not all symptoms of poisoning occur shortly after ingestion; some can take 18 to 36 hours to appear.

Look out for: Salivation, vomiting or diarrhea, uncoordinated gait, seizures, muscle twitching, weakness, nose bleeds, rectal bleeding, and excessive thirst. If your dog has ingested poison, bring a sample of the material with you to the vet if you can. To learn more, visit aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Papillon

To nobody's surprise, Papillons derive their French name from their beautifully fringed, butterfly-shaped ears. And it will surprise no human companion of a Papillon to learn that Dr. Stanley Coren, an expert on animal intelligence, rated the breed the 8th smartest of the 138 breeds he assessed. These little dogs are whip-smart and full of cheerful energy, making them an ideal companion for active families able to provide plenty of exercise and mental stimulation.

The Papillon's fabulous ears are no doubt at least partially responsible for their long history as subjects of fine art. The earliest samples are seen in famous Tiziano Vicelli paintings circa 1500, including the *Venus of Urbino*. Papillons make frequent appearances in paintings of royal and merchant-class families throughout Europe, and one even made it into a family portrait of Louis XIV.

To add a Papillon to your next family photo shoot, search online for a rescue organization near you.



OUR SERVICES



When You Can't Get Fido Out

The difference between a well-exercised dog and one who hasn't gotten out for a few days can be striking. Where'd my nice-mannered, calm companion go? And who does this whirling dervish belong to? Sometimes you just can't get the dog out—inclement weather, personal or public health conditions, or canine injury can all get in the way. Try these measures to keep your dog's excess energy from driving you both crazy:

Play games. A rousing round of hide-and-seek, fetch, tug, or chase can provide physical exercise when a walk isn't in the cards. And playing together is a great way to deepen your bond, too.

Make Fido think. Purchased or homemade canine puzzle toys that require Fido to figure out how to get at a tasty treat can replace physical exercise with mental exertion—and keep your dog busy for hours. Search “dog puzzle toys” or “canine enrichment” online for endless ideas.



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