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Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers



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dog facts

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to the
BONE

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PET BRANDS

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Canine Zone

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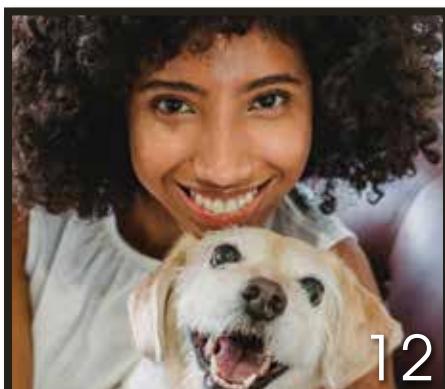
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Dog talk



Dogs are so wonderful, and with their unique personalities there's never a dull moment. Over the years, I've loved all my various dogs' personality traits. For example, my Staffie, Tyke, used to always steal shoes – not to chew but simply to sleep with. Or my Lolo the Pit Bull, who used to be so incredibly vocal, especially when I got home from somewhere and he'd "talk" loudly to me to welcome me home. Diza, my Bull Terrier, was hilarious when she'd literally decide to halt and lie down on our walks, and there were so many times when we'd have to literally carry her home over our shoulders.

My Holly likes to do this strange bark where she'll give a bark... wait a few seconds, then bark again... wait a few seconds, then bark again. She never barks in a straight "sentence", for want of another way to describe what she does.

Drake has so many unique personality traits, like his obsession with empty toilet roll holders and the way that he monitors the toilet and knows exactly when the last bit will be rolled off and he can have his roll to chew on. We have one of those ice cream trucks that drives around our area, and Drake absolutely hates the music it plays. He'll literally throw back his head and howl until he can't hear the music anymore. It's a really impressive howl – but then

Holly tries to join in, and all that comes out is a strange squeaking noise.

The other day I was on a very important Zoom meeting with one of my new social media clients when (of course) the ice cream truck had to drive by. You can imagine the wide-eyed, mad dash by our designer, Ian, to get Drake outside quickly before the howling began in earnest. The joys of working at home with dogs!

I was recently hanging out with my dogs when I began thinking, as one does, about how many names people have for dogs these days. Apparently, the word "pet" is no longer PC, so we now refer to dogs as – dogs, pups, doggos, puppies, and fur kids. I've noted that in American articles they're often referred to as "Fido", but in all my years, I've never ever heard of a dog named Fido in South Africa! And neither will you find the name anywhere on those Most Popular Dog Name Lists that crowd the internet.

Turns out that the name Fido was used so much in American English that it went from a proper name to a generic noun – all because of Abraham Lincoln. It so happens that in his pre-presidential life as a lawyer in Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln had a dog named Fido. The name derives from a Latin word that means "to trust, believe, confide in". A fitting name for dogs, then.

We hope you enjoy this issue, because it's jam-packed with articles and heart-warming adoption stories. Visit our website on www.caninezonesa.co.za for a stockist list, or email us if you can't find a copy so we can get them into the closest Woolworths, Pick n Pay, Checkers, or even a Spar close to you.

Stay warm and safe, and give your doggos a big hug from me!

Sharon

Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers

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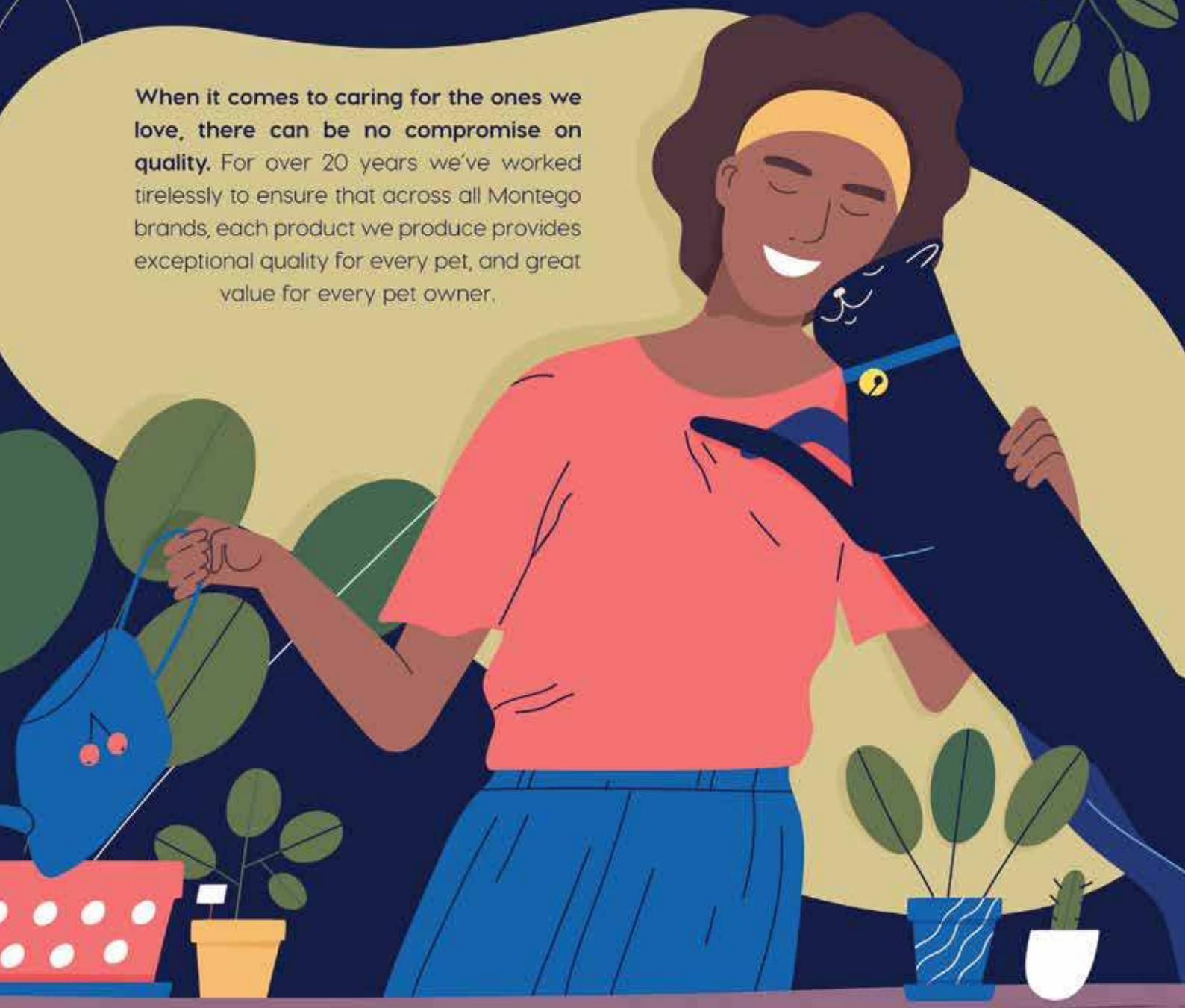
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UPFRONT

TEARS ANIMAL RESCUE WELCOMES CAPE TOWN'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ITS ANIMAL KEEPING POLICY



TEARS Animal Rescue joins other regional animal welfare charities in applauding the City of Cape Town's proposed amendments to its Animal Keeping Policy (2005) that's out for public comment until May 17. The revised law, if it's passed, will make it mandatory for pet owners to sterilise their pets over the age of six months.

Mandy Store, TEARS Animal Rescue Operations Manager, affirms that by far the biggest challenge that animal welfare organisations are faced with are the increasingly high number of homeless, sick, neglected and abused animals that need to be rescued, treated, rehabilitated and rehomed as a direct result of animal overpopulation and uncontrolled breeding. TEARS will be looking to raise approximately

responsible pet ownership and help to reduce the number of unwanted and homeless cats and kittens and dogs and puppies that the TEARS Mobile Clinic rescues every month. It's in everyone's best interest, especially the animal, to spay and/or neuter rather than allow irresponsible breeding."

Due to the financial impact of COVID-19 on the poor, and the resulting escalation in costs and demands on animal welfare services, more and more non-profit organisations (NPOs) are looking for assistance from other charities to fulfil critical sterilisation and vaccination quotas as a means of minimising pet homelessness and avoid another outbreak of PARVO and distemper that recently affected so many animal rescue shelters. While TEARS services the low-income communities of Masiphumelele,

R7 million this year to cover the subsidised and sponsored sterilisation and vaccination programmes that it operates via the TEARS Veterinary Clinic and its various community outreach programmes.

Says Mandy, "We're thrilled that the new law will encourage

Ocean View, Vrygrond and Red Hill, it also collaborates with over a dozen other animal welfare organisations, some as far afield as Kronenberg near Malmesbury, contributing to 30% of TEARS sterilisation work across the Cape.

With the large overpopulation of animals and overcrowding that occurs in many of the informal settlements, Zoonosis (the transfer of animal's diseases to humans) also occurs in the forms of giardia (causing diarrhoea), rabies, ringworm, erlichia (a tick-borne blood disease), intestinal worms, scabies, as well as diseases carried by ticks and fleas passing to humans.

TEARS General Manager Lauren Carlyle concludes, "We look forward to a future where sterilisation of all companion animals is required by law. TEARS continues to rely on the support of its corporate, foundation and individual donors to help us achieve our mission and mandate. Education supported by veterinary healthcare and free sterilisation and vaccination services is the only way to decrease the negative impact of overpopulation and facilitate a healthier human and animal population within vulnerable communities in the Western Cape."

Choose to change a life by donating a spay or neuter today by visiting www.tears.org.za/donate. As a recognised public benefit organisation, all donations to TEARS are tax deductible.

HOW ADVANCEMENTS IN DIAGNOSTICS ARE KEEPING PETS HEALTHIER, FOR LONGER

"More and more, animals are becoming part of the family," says Tarryn Dent, Diagnostic and Technical Manager at Zoetis South Africa, a global animal health company.

"Pet health impacts the overall health of a family, and so a lot more energy, focus and funds are being invested into good-quality food, vaccines, medications and the overall living standards of pets," says Dent.

Although your veterinarian can learn a lot by performing a physical examination of your pet, there are some signs of disease that can only be detected with further testing and diagnostics, which is quickly becoming a critical element in the overall role that vets play in their clients' lives and that of their families.

"This doesn't just apply to sick pets — it's important to understand

what's going on inside with pets that appear healthy, too," says Dent. "We work closely with veterinarians and veterinary nurses in order for them to get the most out of the diagnostic tests at their disposal so that they can offer their four-legged patients the best preventative care possible.

"The great news for pet owners is that many clinics are able to offer in-house diagnostic tests, with results available in as little time as 15 minutes," says Dent. "This means that annual health checks are on the rise. As a pet owner, if your pet is clinically healthy, you may not see value at the time, but the reality is that you want a normal test result to give you peace of mind that your animal is healthy.

"More importantly, it gives your vet a 'normal range' for your specific pet. This allows the vet on subsequent

rechecks to monitor trends in your animal. Further down the line, your vet could pick up issues and intervene with a treatment plan earlier, rather than waiting for your pet to show clinical signs of illness or disease."



LIFT LAUNCHES A DOG-FRIENDLY FLIGHT OFFERING FOR TRAVELLING DOG "PAW-RENTS"



South Africa's newest airline, LIFT, continues to innovate with its dog-friendly flight offering, allowing customers to travel with their small dogs onboard in a carry bag placed under the seat in front of them.

To qualify, small dogs need to be at least 10 weeks old and able to fit into a dog carrier bag no bigger than 28cm x 20cm x 45cm to ensure they fit under the seat. The cost of the dog-friendly booking (blocked-off

seat) will be equal to the fare paid by the accompanying adult.

"As a customer-focused airline, LIFT is flexible to the changing needs of our travellers. We regularly engage with our customers to understand what new service offerings and other enhancements can be made to improve their experience with us, and a prominent call has been for their pets to travel with them during their flights," explains LIFT co-founder Jonathan Ayache.

"Many loving 'paw-rents' can't always make use of pet hotels, family or friends to look after their pets. Moreover, they want these four-legged family members to be included when they travel, and this has up until now not been possible when travelling by plane."

For those of you that aren't pet fanatics or have allergies – not to worry! Only a limited number of dogs are allowed to travel on selected flights, and customers travelling with their dogs will need to purchase an additional seat in a specific area of the cabin. The window seat will be blocked for the pet and the accompanying pet owner will need to be seated in the adjacent (middle) seat.

For more information and to make a booking, go to lift.co.za and follow the links under LIFT Extras. Bookings will need to be made at least 72 hours prior to departure, and they need to have all of the relevant travel documentation for their furry companions, including veterinary health statements as well as up-to-date vaccination certificates.

HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY FOR PETS

Oxygen treatment is the natural way to improve the health of your pet, assist in recovering from illness, injury, wounds and surgery through state-of-the-art pressure chambers conveniently located in Gauteng. OxyPet is the very first hyperbaric oxygen chamber in South Africa, and they've successfully treated many dogs.

JOPLIN - Joplin was brought by her owner to The Society for Animals in Distress with a serious wound on one of her back legs. The owner didn't know what had caused the wound or what exactly had happened to her, but he was desperate to get help for 14-year-old Joplin.

Joplin was booked in at the clinic for an extended period of time where standard wound management techniques were applied, and having consent from her owner, OxyPet had the opportunity to work with and aid in her recovery.

Joplin received 14 Hyperbaric Oxygen sessions in our chamber. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy helps with wound healing and recovery time, especially in ageing pets, and is used in conjunction with veterinary medicine. We're happy to report that Joplin has been at home with her dad and brother for the past week and has healed beautifully.

RHINO - Rhino was admitted to the

Society for Animals in Distress with severe worms (hookworm) and malnutrition. After a few days at the clinic, it was noticed that his back legs were weak and not functioning properly. Rhino was treated but was not showing any marked improvement on allopathic medicine, so the chamber was a last attempt at helping the pup.

The vet gave us the go-ahead to put Rhino in the chamber, and after eight sessions over four days, he was up and walking around, albeit a bit wobbly! Oxygen Therapy is a non-invasive treatment that delivers oxygen into the mitochondria of cells and helps tissue heal and helps new stem cells regenerate naturally. This is an amazing tool used to repair nerve damage, brain damage and regrow other damaged tissues. It also can speed up the time of recovery. This is an amazing tool to help with all causes of paralysis, including Degenerative Myelopathy, infections, tick paralysis, toxicity, and pain management.

Rhino has been returned to his owner and will continue to recover at home after being given a great head start with OxyPet.

RAMBO - As a typical Bully, Rambo ate a piece of wire fencing on the plot where he lives – fencing went

down and perforated his gut all the way down, leaving lacerations of at least 3 centimetres in his stomach walling and intestine. He was rushed to theatre and patched up as best they could.

Most of the perforations were closed in surgery, but because of the infection, the stitching wasn't holding, and the vet gave Rambo an outcome of "Grave" as she said that with the holes not closing, stomach acids would leak into his body, causing organ failure and death; he was given five days to live.

Rambo has been going onto the chamber twice a day for an hour, and his temperature is back to normal, and he's eating solid foods and has solid stools. For more information, visit www.oxyPet.co.za, call 064 955 0214, or email: info@oxyPet.co.za



THE SOUTHERN AFRICA ANIMAL CANCER ASSOCIATION (SAACA)

THE SOUTHERN AFRICA ANIMAL CANCER ASSOCIATION (SAACA)

The saying goes, show me how you treat an animal and I know who you are. This is just the start, according to Munnik Marais, newly appointed CEO for the Southern African Animal Cancer Association (SAACA). Munnik

says, "Animals are our responsibility, and we're the voice for the voiceless. Cancer is real in animals. Veterinary oncology is a subspecialty of veterinary medicine that deals with cancer diagnosis and treatment in animals. Cancer is a major cause of death in pet animals. In one study, 45% of all

the dogs that reached 10 years of age or older died of cancer."

SAACA was established as there's a need in the market for an NPC to focus on animals and cancer. SAACA is the first in Africa to have this focus and works in association with the Faculty of Veterinary Science,

University of Pretoria. Research at Onderstepoort will be funded by SAACA.

Cancer in Companion Animals

By Dr Frans Pretorius BVSc
Lyttelton Animal Hospital

As companion animal veterinarians, we deal with the dreaded c-word – cancer – on a daily basis. In general practice we help not only with diagnosing and treatment of cancers but also in educating pet owners on preventative measures and procedures.

About 15-20% of the pets that we see at our general practice are diagnosed and treated for some form of cancer, ranging from mammary tumours, skin cancers, Lymphomas, malignant growths such as Mast Cell Tumours, and bone cancer. These cancers are staged, biopsied, checked for metastases (if it's spread to other organs) and, if possible, surgically corrected or treated with

chemotherapy/radiation therapy. Some of these will have positive outcomes but, unfortunately, not all of them. Our main education drive is for early detection and intervention. Any lump or bump should be examined as soon as it's noticed for a better outcome.

We also educate all our clients on procedures that could prevent future cancers from developing. For example, pet owners with animals that have white skins are educated on the importance of sunscreen application on a daily basis. Early sterilisation of small-breed dogs can reduce the risk of mammary tumours developing later on in life.

Having to euthanise a beloved pet due to cancer can be a very traumatic and emotional experience. The consolation is knowing that early detection and intervention has resulted in the least amount of pain and good quality of life.

With the high cost of veterinary



treatment for your best friend, a pet medical aid has become essential! SAACA has partnered with Rainbow Pets to ensure you have the best options for pet insurance. Did you know that on average to house your pet in a veterinary clinic for one night can cost you up to R5,000? This is before any procedures have begun. Make the smart choice and get yourself and your pet covered today!

For information on SAACA, contact Munnik Marais on bark@saaca.org.

PUPPY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP RAISES FUNDS FOR DOG SHELTER

A Hartbeespoort-based dog park and pet boutique has partnered with a well-known dog shelter to raise much-needed funds.

“I approached Paoli Dog Park when I saw their advert on Facebook. They’re conveniently situated for Dogtown to be involved with them, and we were excited by their willingness to be involved with us. It’s imperative for Dogtown to continue to raise funds and to be able to do this with a great partner close to the centre,” says Elanza Kloppers, Dogtown shelter manager.

Paoli Dog Park and Pet Boutique is the perfect place for dogs to enjoy off-leash time and to eat at a restaurant with a dog and a human menu. The pet boutique stocks a selection of dog items, including dog

bowls, harnesses, leads, chewies, treats, dog food, nail clippers, and dog beds.

“I have such a passion for often overlooked shelter dogs and was looking to be involved with a shelter. So, when Dogtown approached me, it was a match made in heaven,” says Annelize Roodt, the owner of Paoli Dog Park and Pet Boutique.

Annelize continues, “We’re proud to be associated with Dogtown and fully support them and their initiatives. We’re excited to make our facility available for their puppy classes and adoption days and look eagerly forward to Saturday mornings!”

Keep an eye on the Dogtown social media pages for news of the next Dogtown adoption day. The puppy classes are presented by IMDT-

certified professional trainers from Dogtown. The puppy classes can be booked by emailing centralbark@dogtownsa.org. Visit www.dogtownsa.org for more information.



Your Photos



DUGALD is a Roan Springer Spaniel cross. He was rescued by Husky Haven Rescue in March 2019 after being left abandoned in a house in Pretoria. It was fate that brought us together. I'd adopted a dog from Spaniel Welfare and was desperate to get him a friend. Dugald came to us timid, scared and thin – he's



since blossomed into the most gorgeous, loving, crazy, funny boy – despite his terrible start to life! – JENNY PIKE



MI-LA is a Biewer Yorkie who loves carrots and loves to play hide-and-seek with me. She also adores being photographed. Mi-La just adorable. – SANDRA DU RANDT



My name is **BLAINE** and I'm a seven-year-old Jack Russell. I think I'm picture-perfect! Lots of love from me and my daddies. – AUBREY LE ROUX



BRUTUS has been staying safe during the pandemic.
– RETA SEWDAN



FEISTY – I'm my mom's cutest dog. I'm the love of her life!
– ESTELLE VAN ZYL



WIN! If your photo is the winning photo, you will receive a fabulous prize from Complete Pet. To enter, e-mail your photo and a sentence or two about your dog/s to editorial@caninezonesa.co.za



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Hi, I'm **BULLET**. I'm COVID-compliant and wear my buff with pride! – PHILLIP VAN ZYL



JESSE is our gorgeous, gentle girl, adopted from CLAW. Here she is with a lovely hamper she won at our local pet store. – JULIE LEGGE



HOLDEN is a miniature Dachshund living his best life in Cape Town as an only child. – SHANNON AUSTIN



NUNU – Everyone thinks I'm adorable!
– KAREN SOUTHEY



LUNA is a Blue American Pit Bull. She's so patient, energetic, loveable, gentle, and the most loving dog you'll ever lay eyes on. She melts hearts wherever she goes. – STEFNIE PUTTER

Help!



GOT A QUESTION?

E-mail us at editorial@caninezonesa.co.za and we will forward your mail to our behaviourists, Julie Bezuidenhout and Caitlin Balt-Helmrich to answer



CAN WE ADOPT MORE DOGS?

We have a Rottweiler-cross named Joshy and a medium-sized cross breed "Africanis"-type dog named Molly. We'd love to rescue another dog or two, but we never did go to socialisation training and as our dogs are a bit rambunctious in public, we don't want to take them to a shelter. Would it be possible for us to bring more dogs into our family safely, and how should we go about adopting? Do you have any advice?

—TARRYN LEARY

CAITLIN SAYS — Adopting dogs and growing your canine family is an exciting prospect! Bringing another dog into a home with established pets requires some careful consideration and management. How do Joshy and Molly get along with one another? What is their background with other animals?

Are there any tendencies towards resource-guarding? Some dogs enjoy living with lots of canine friends, but if Molly and Joshy have a strong bond, they may not feel the need to share their home with another dog. Any reputable shelters will have safe meet-and-greet zones where the dogs can be introduced under the guidance of experienced staff. If your two are simply excitable when out and about and haven't been known to be aggressive towards other animals, this initial meet-and-greet is an important step. You want them to be at their most rambunctious to get a fair idea of how they feel about another dog. Speak to the staff about your concerns before your arrival and they'll assist you. Bringing an adult dog, or puppy, into your home without an initial greeting could result in

Joshy and Molly guarding their resources. If you have a successful meet-and-greet and do bring another dog into the family, it's important to take things slowly and let the dogs build a relationship of trust. Limit their interactions at first, and always supervise them until you can be sure that they are friends! If in doubt, enlist the assistance of a trainer or behaviourist in your area.



MY DOG IS TOY POSSESSIVE



We have a large crossbreed dog by the name of Gingie. She's now three years old and we adopted her from the SPCA. We have two Jack Russells – a male and a female. I've always enjoyed the advice on this page so thought I'd ask your advice even though we've lived with the issue we have since we adopted Gingie. She's very possessive of toys and possessions, and she'll take toys or even large stones and then lie in her bed and growl and leap out to attack if one of the

other dogs even walks past her. What my husband and I usually do is just take the item away from her and give it to the other dogs, whereafter she settles down again. Is this the right thing to do, as we feel bad taking toys away from her, but we don't want her to attack Jester or Joanie? — ALLIE JOHNSON

CAITLIN SAYS — Resource guarding and possessiveness are challenging behaviours that require careful management, especially considering the size difference between the dogs. The first step would be to limit her access to items that she may be possessive over. At the same time, manage the environment by moving her bed so that Jester and Joanie are less likely to pass her if she does end up with something. Growling is excellent communication and a warning to Jester and Joanie that Gingie is uncomfortable. A growl

shouldn't be punished or interrupted. Instead, when she growls, help the other dogs to understand the warning by moving them away and giving them a toy or treat of their own. However, if she doesn't give them a chance to move away before engaging, this is a cause for concern. Has she hurt the other dogs, or is it all bark and no bite? Taking the item away from Gingie and giving it to Jester and Joanie can make her more possessive — every time she has something she wants, it's stolen and given to the other dogs! If you do take the item away, do it as an exchange for a piece of tasty food, and don't give the toy to the other dogs. You can also work on teaching her that when she has something coveted, good things happen — i.e. she gets an upgrade, she gets a treat, she gets calm praise, or she gets to keep it and doesn't need to worry about protecting it.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE CORRECT DOGGY DAY CARE

We adopted a little dog from an adoption centre in December. My company has allowed me to work from home, which has been fantastic, but sadly the new boss wants everyone to work in the office again. I don't want to leave my little Jody alone at home, so I wanted to look into day care. Do you recommend day care, or will she be fine at home alone during weekdays? What should I look out for when choosing a day care centre if I do decide to go that route? This is really stressing me out, and I'm sure this is affecting so many of your readers whose bosses' companies are now insisting on people being in the office, which in my opinion is ridiculous as working from home has so many benefits and should be the way of the future! – RASHIDA M

JULIE SAYS – A reputable day care is a great option to consider now that people are having to go back to work. Day care shouldn't be seen as a replacement for a human not being home, but rather a positive experience with other people and animals, in a safe environment. If Jody can cope home alone, without separation anxiety, being away from you, then perhaps consider certain days in the week for day care. Being home alone does have its benefits in that dogs learn that it's not stressful being alone and cope accordingly. It also gives them some downtime to rest. Day care centres must be reputable. The owner and staff should be very knowledgeable about dogs, their breed types and temperaments. They should provide a safe, structured environment for all the

pets, who should be supervised all the time and never left unattended. Health and hygiene regimes should be strictly adhered to (vaccinations, including kennel cough).

When deciding on which day care centre is best for you and your dog, go there unannounced and see how the dogs there are regarded and ask questions. After all, you need to know that your pet is safe and well cared for at day care.



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Is your dog HAPPY?

By Caitlin Balt-Helmrich (CO1: DogWise Stage 1 COAPE;
Owner at geni[US] Dogs; BScHons Zoology)



Dogs are generally regarded as social creatures, keen to interact with the world around them. Some dogs are social butterflies – eagerly interacting with other dogs and humans. Others are more selective and have close circles of companions – human and other species – whose company they enjoy. When humans choose to bring a canine companion into

their families, we take on the responsibility of the welfare of another being. Not only do we need to provide for their basic survival needs including food, water, warmth and shelter; we also have the responsibility of ensuring that their emotional well-being is seen to. The question on all dog owners' minds, after ensuring that their companions are healthy, should

be "Is my dog happy?"

DO DOGS EXPERIENCE EMOTIONS?

Emotions aren't always attributed to non-human species. Yet, it has been shown that dogs experience joy, jealousy, fear and love, to name a few. Dog guardians attuned to their canine companions know when their dog's emotional state changes. It's easy to see why many of us attribute human characteristics to dogs! So, how do you know that your dog is happy? And how can you ensure that their emotional needs are met?

BODY LANGUAGE

A dog's body language is the first way to know if your pet is happy. A dog with relaxed ears, loose posture and a willingness to approach you generally indicates that your dog's comfortable and content. A dog with a furrowed expression, tense body posture and reluctance to engage could mean that it's uncomfortable or unsure.

BEHAVIOUR

The way that a dog behaves day-to-day is another sure way to evaluate their emotional state. Adult dogs, on average, enjoy about 14 hours of sleep a day. If your dog sleeps significantly more or less than that, they may be unhappy.

BOREDOM

Boredom is a common nemesis for contentedness, and in a dog it may present in various ways.

The way that you interact with your dog plays an essential role in their well-being and happiness

Bored dogs may look for things to do – often in the form of digging, chewing, barking or seeking attention. These are things that feel good to dogs and relieve boredom! Those who are bored need to be given appropriate outlets. This could be moderate exercise, increased interactions with family members, and training games. “Feeding for fun”, by scattering your dog’s food or feeding them in a puzzle feeder, is another great way to keep boredom at bay. A large garden full of toys isn’t enough – your dog wants to spend time with you!

STRESS

Sometimes, seemingly insignificant events and experiences can affect a dog’s emotions. An unexpected visitor, a change in routine or a storm the night before can contribute to feelings of worry. Dogs who are stressed or anxious may be constantly on high-alert – whining, pacing, and unable to settle and get proper rest. In response to these behaviours, well-meaning pet owners often commit to doing more for their dogs – more walks, more experiences, more interaction. For over-aroused or unsure dogs, these activities often only add to their stresses and worries. They need to be given time to relax and decompress, with long-lasting chews, scatter feeding, and slow, lazy walks in quiet areas, dedicated to sniffing. Your dog should end an outing or experience feeling mentally

stimulated, not physically exhausted or overwhelmed.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

The way that you interact with your dog plays an essential role in their well-being. Are you patient and kind? Do you spend time with them in a meaningful way? Do you help your dog understand what you want from them rather than what you don’t want? Do you allow your dog to make their

own choices, or are you inconsistent and disrespectful, breaking your dog’s trust by forcing them into situations that they’re not comfortable with? Humans and dogs have, over generations, come to develop a unique and beautiful dependency. We bring these canine companions into our homes to enrich our lives, and in return, we have the opportunity and responsibility to enrich theirs. 



THE DOGS OF JOHN WICK

By Aidan Wiggill



While most big-budget Hollywood blockbusters would opt for CGI animals as a way to save both time and money, the John Wick franchise has been home to some of the most talented and well-loved dogs in the industry. From Beagles to Pit Bulls, John Wick has become the definitive action franchise for dog lovers everywhere.

ANDY THE BEAGLE

Daisy the Beagle was undeniably the emotional core of the first John Wick movie. While only being on screen for around 10 minutes, Daisy left a mark not only on the fictional John Wick universe but also on audience members everywhere. The Beagle that started it all was played by an animal actor named Andy, who was eight months old at the time of filming. He was adopted by Animal Actors International specifically for the first movie. It was mostly due to the inherent cuteness of Beagles that he was chosen for the movie in an attempt to get the most emotional reaction from the audience as

possible. Andy attended multiple events during the press tour for John Wick, alongside the rest of his human co-stars.

After the filming and press run of John Wick, Andy was housed by Animal Actors International on their farm in New Jersey and was then adopted by a friend of his trainer for the movie, Kim Krafsky. Andy's been renamed "Wick" and now lives happily with his adoptive family and is retired from the entertainment industry. Wick was even able to reunite with Keanu Reeves when he got to visit the actor on the set of *John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum* during filming.

BURTON AND CHA CHA THE PIT BULL

While John Wick begins in the worst way possible for any animal-lover, the film does actually have a somewhat happy ending, where John saves a Pit Bull from being put down and "adopts" him as his own. A Pit Bull was chosen to be John's companion in Chapter 2 to match the grittier and more extreme

LET'S MEET THE DOGS FROM THE JOHN WICK FRANCHISE



themes of the sequel and because a strong Pit Bull is more or less the complete opposite of a cute and defenceless Beagle puppy.

The yet-to-be-named Pit Bull has been played by two canine actors across both John Wick Chapter 2 and Chapter 3. In Chapter 2, the Pit Bull was played by Burton, a rescue dog. Burton was chosen by the film's Director because of his sad eyes (he wanted the audience to sympathise with him rather than be frightened). Keanu Reeves and Burton, whom he nicknamed "Bubba" on set, formed quite a strong bond throughout the filming of Chapter 2, and Keanu was apparently with him almost constantly until filming wrapped.

For currently unknown reasons, Burton was replaced as the primary canine actor for John Wick Chapter 3 by an almost identical Pit Bull named Cha Cha, who's set to continue playing the role in the future instalments of the franchise. There's almost no public information on Burton and what he's doing today, but we'll keep our eyes open for this adorable star in the future.

THE BELGIAN MALINOIS SHEPHERDS

In *John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum*, John Wick runs into a fellow dog-loving assassin played by Halle Berry; the character is introduced alongside her two Belgian Malinois Shepherds.

The Shepherds were played by five stunt dogs with various training proficiencies so that multiple, different stunts could be performed in a number of conditions without any of them experiencing fatigue or stress during filming. The dogs were named Santana, Tai, Sam 7, Boyca, and Ikar, and each had a special relationship with Halle Berry throughout the production. This was mostly due to the fact that Halle was their on- and off-screen handler. That's right, during those high-octane action scenes involving the Shepherds there was no handler hiding behind the camera calling out commands, it was all Halle. Not only did she take on combat and weapons training regimes as



vigorous as Reeves', but she also spent time in between that training and bonding with the dogs portraying Sofia's companions. So, next time you watch the film, know that that's actually Halle Berry commanding those dogs.

All five of Chapter 3's Shepherds are still working as professional stunt dogs and will hopefully make a return in future John Wick instalments. 



CHILLIN' WITH CHARLIE

By Tania Colyn

The story of how a little dog from Bedford took on an amazing journey to heal a broken heart



In early 2019, my rescue dog Zahra was diagnosed with a rare nasal tumour. The tumour grew extremely quickly, and the kindest decision was to put her to sleep. She was only six years old, and her death left me devastated as she truly was my "soul dog". I'd decided not to adopt another dog as I felt I should focus on my other two remaining rescues, and I also wasn't sure how my dominant lady, Xena, would feel about allowing another dog into her space. Then I saw Charlie.

CHARMED BY CHARLIE

Charlie was advertised on the Grahamstown SPCA page as a "little old man" who'd been rescued from Bedford – a quirky-looking small boy with so much love to give. It was love at first sight when I saw his picture, and I immediately contacted the SPCA to ask if they'd allow him to be adopted to Cape Town. The

answer was that if an organisation in Cape Town was willing to assist with a home check, and if I could arrange transport to get him here, I could adopt him. And so, our adventure began! The home check was easy to arrange as I'd adopted from the AACL in Cape Town previously, and they kindly agreed to assist with the home check. The next obstacle was getting Charlie to Cape Town. I wasn't sure how he'd feel about flying, and I was worried about causing him trauma with having to be transported around in crates and being passed from person to person.

MAKING THE JOURNEY HOME

I began searching on Facebook, and as luck would have it, I came across Roscan Sanctum near Worcester. Duncan and Rosie from Roscan were about to travel up to East London, and I contacted them to ask if they could make a slight detour via Grahamstown on their way home to give my boy a lift. They were more than happy to help, and so, Charlie, as I'd now named him, could be neutered and prepared for his journey to Cape Town.

Charlie spent two days on the road with Duncan and Rosie, and I was so excited to collect him from Duncan when they arrived in Cape Town. When we got home, I held my breath while introducing him to his new fur family, Xena and Rusty. I had no idea what I'd do if they didn't get along! Thankfully, he seemed to

understand that Xena is the "boss lady", and he accepted her authority immediately. The two of them have bonded so much, and Xena has taught him how to walk properly on a lead and how to shamelessly beg for treats! Even the grumpy old man, Rusty, has accepted him and begrudgingly allows Charlie to lick him in the face every once in a while.

CHARLIE IS HOME!

It's almost two years later, and Charlie has settled in so well with us, loving his home comforts and enjoying our times away for beach breaks in Hermanus. He's the most loving, sweetest little dog, and I can't imagine life without him. As sad as Zahra's passing was for me, I often think that there was a reason behind it, as it allowed a space to open up for Charlie to join our little family. My biggest thanks goes out to the Grahamstown SPCA, AACL Bellville, and Duncan and Rose from Roscan who all contributed to Charlie's journey to his forever home. 



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A NEW LIFE FOR STANLEY

By Louise Brolly (Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue and Rehabilitation)



Photography by Riaan van der Merwe

Late on the afternoon of Saturday, the 2nd of January 2021, when most people were still relaxing in the afterglow of their New Year's celebrations and welcoming in the year 2021, Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue and Rehabilitation received a call for help.

In the informal settlement of Atteridgeville, on the outskirts of Pretoria, there was a Bull Terrier who was being kept inside a lady's home (a humble little shack) for his safety and needed to be extracted as soon as possible before news travelled that he was being kept out of sight.

Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue and Rehabilitation leapt into action

with our Pretoria Action Man, Riaan van der Merwe, making urgent arrangements to assist in securing the soul in need of a safe harbour. When he arrived at the home, the little Bull Terrier was lovingly wrapped in the lady's own (and possibly only) blanket and kept warm.

When he was lifted into Riaan's arms, he was truly just bones and open wounds. This tired, sore Bull Terrier had escaped terrible circumstances which had left him not only thin and dehydrated but with scab upon scab and large open wounds, due to bites marks and burn wounds, across his body. He also had extremely infected eyes, and one eye seemed like it might not have

much function remaining.

GETTING TO SAFETY

The frail dog, wrapped in the blanket, was removed from the area and taken to one of the most amazing veterinary practices in Pretoria, Valley Farm Vet, where the staff and vets opened their arms and hearts to this little man with nothing left to lose. He was immediately assessed, and the emergency team started their care programme with drips and injections. He was far too sore to do much else, but the necessary had to be done.

While we awaited news from the vet, like desperate parents, prayers went out for this little dog to survive so that we could



STANLEY BEFORE

improve his life, his lot and his all-round opinion of us so-called "humans". While we waited for news, he was blessed with a name, a beautiful Anglo-Saxon name: Stanley. Please protect and heal our Stanley, please let us not have found him too late. Surely all this suffering cannot be for naught, the prayers echoed out to the Universe.

THE HEALING BEGINS

Our sincere prayers were heard, and slowly but surely our Stanley began to react to veterinary intervention. On closer inspection it was found that the wounds on his body were old and new wounds, meaning he'd suffered cruelty and neglect more than once and probably on a regular basis. It was heartbreaking to think that he'd been through so much and never once growled or curled a lip, not even in pain or fear, at anyone who'd handled him during his rescue and the initial intensive care he'd received. Stanley walked slowly, as the wounds on his back from the burns did compromise his mobility, but he walked. He wagged his tail at the sound of Riaan's voice, and he gulped down the chicken that was specially bought and delivered to the vet practice, just for him! Never before had anything nice been done just for him, our Stanley.

A SETBACK

Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue and Rehabilitation kennels were prepped and waiting for him

Knowing this Bull Terrier is to be humbled and reminded of what it means to be a pure soul

with bated breath when he suddenly crashed prior to leaving the Farm Valley practice. It was found that he'd been in so much pain that without the full complement of painkillers that had been provided to him, he was just in too much agony to be mobile. So, back onto more pain medication and we saw that little spark return, the will to live and the lion heart that beats in every Bull Terrier chest. He wouldn't be defeated.

STANLEY STARTS TO BLOSSOM

Once received at the kennels, Stanley blossomed under the care of our founding member, Dania Skone, and the other integral members of our kennel staff. He loved that food was so readily available and would do a little dance of joy whenever his internal clock notified him that it was breakfast, snack or supper time. He smiled that signature Bull Terrier smile and barked his little bark to remind everyone when we dared to be even a moment late with his bowl!

Stanley was healing so beautifully physically. His skin, thankfully healthy under all the burns and singed hair, was a healthy pink, and slowly the wounds began to close, and the hair returned to where there'd previously been none. His eyes cleared up and his little steps became big happy strides, walking away from a terrible past. Striding like the wonderful dog he was always meant to be.

FINDING A FAMILY

The time had come for a home to be found for our darling, but who'd be the best home for this, our Stanley dog? What were we looking for? A family that would look past the scars that would never fade, a family who'd show him love and acceptance for the duration of his life, to be devoted to him as we have been... where would such a family come from?

Enter the Bekker family, based close enough to the kennels so that we can visit on the odd occasion, who are one of the kindest and most down-to-earth families we'd ever be able to hope for. They've allowed Stanley to be just a dog – not a victim, not a status symbol; no, none of that! Just a dog that needed a family to see the beautiful heart and the indomitable spirit – a dog that life just couldn't break.

STANLEY IS HOME!

Stanley now lives a wonderfully normal life for a dog. He plays ball with his kids outside, he sleeps like a king inside, he lives a life he would never have had, and he shares his space with a family that possibly could've been denied to him had he not crossed the path of that lovely lady in Atteridgeville who knew whom to call.

Stanley, you're everything we as humans should be: resilient, kind and forgiving. Knowing you is to be humbled and reminded of what it means to be a pure soul.



The Mother of All Adoption Days

By Tracy McQuarrie (Dogtown SA)



If the humans won't come to the dogs, the dogs will come to the humans, and that's exactly what Dogtown decided to embark on with their adoption days.

Life's tough – we know it, you know it, and it's even got a little tougher over the past year, but one thing that's consistent is our dogs' love.

With the pandemic, so many people's lives have changed. Even today with the ease on our lockdown regulations, people aren't wanting to go out and travel. We've all moved a little more into ourselves. Which, in

my humble opinion, can't be good for us. The isolation and lack of interactions with people has to take its toll on us. Of course, I look at everything in life from a dog's point of view, and I've seen dogs in shelters that experience little to no human and dog interaction, and it has a detrimental effect on their well-being.

You know what would make a human in isolation happier? You guessed it – a dog! With our way of life changing so much, we decided to take a look at adoption days and turn them on their head.

A FUN DAY OUT

Fundraising events were

virtually non-existent over the past year, so we decided to combine the two and make our adoption days a fun day out for everyone. Luckily for us, our friend, Dogtown Dad and entertainer, Schalk Bezuidenhout, thought the same, so we set about creating an adoption day like no other.

We found the perfect venue at Paoli Dog Park, arranged yummy food, got a live band to play music and, of course, brought our rescue dogs from the centre to enjoy the day mingling among the crowd and living their best life.

The cherry on top was that Schalk would introduce our dogs to our guests like only Schalk can, and the crowd loved every minute of it. Schalk was hilarious and gave our dogs such funny character references. I had to laugh when Schalk introduced our first dog, Finn – he said that he would've loved to adopt Finn himself, but his own rescued dog, Otis, is too active for him. Cut to later on in the day when Finn and Otis are playing and having the best time and Finn heading home to Schalk that following week!

Laughing and cuddling the dogs, forgetting they're shelter dogs and just enjoying their company, it was great to see how much happiness they brought to our guests and how well behaved all our dogs were. No one would've thought they were shelter dogs because people seem to think that shelter dogs are broken, and



You know what would make a human in isolation happier? You guessed it – a dog!

that's just not true.

FINDING FOREVER HOMES

What I loved about the adoption day is that even if you aren't looking to adopt a dog, it's a fabulous, fun day out, and if you are looking to adopt, it's a beautiful way to meet your future fur kid.

So many of our beautiful dogs found loving homes from the day. Adopting a dog from Dogtown has some really cool perks too: every dog adopted from Dogtown not only gets our support from the Dogtown Team for life but our dogs head home

with an incredible adoption pack provided by our friends at M-Pets.

Our adoption days also raise funds for our Spay It Forward campaign so we can reduce the number of unwanted pets, so it's a win-win. If you'd like to adopt a Dogtown Dog, email adopt@dogtownsa.org. Or keep an eye on our social media pages for our up-and-coming adoption days.

You can also see our woofderful dogs up for adoption on our website at www.dogtownsa.org. We'll be coming to a town near you soon and cannot wait to see you there for the best day out ever.



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NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART PRODUCTION FACILITY TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF PET FOOD IN SOUTH AFRICA

In households around the world, pets are cherished by their owners and considered a part of the family. South Africans are no different – we're known to be a nation of animal lovers. Euromonitor International's latest report on pet care in South Africa, shows that the country's pet population consists of no less than 10.5 million dogs and 3 million cats. Our pets love us unconditionally and they bring us endless joy and genuine affection.



In turn, we work to give them the kind of care they deserve, and that includes exceptional nutrition. A recent development heralds some exciting news for the pet food industry and pet parents across the country. The production facility behind several of South Africa's best loved pet food brands, such as the legendary JOCK Dog Food brand, has moved house – all aimed at providing superior nutrition and consistent quality to pet owners everywhere.



Afrique is proudly South African and sources the majority of its raw materials from local suppliers and producers.

Afrique Pet Food sets a new pace

The newly named production facility, Afrique Pet Food, is situated in Isando, Johannesburg. The facility is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and technology, and an expert team of highly skilled operational nutritionists and experienced staff ensures the continuous betterment of pets' wellbeing and pet parents' satisfaction.

The team lives and breathes the Afrique vision – to produce high quality food for cats and dogs with love and care and make a real impact on the mental and physical wellbeing of pets. The culture at Afrique Pet Food is characterised by innovative entrepreneurship and a customer-centred business focus.

Accredited and local

Your four-legged best friend deserves only the best food to ensure a healthy and happy life. Afrique Pet Food therefore only uses the highest quality ingredients to preserve the nutritional integrity of the pet food produced for your furry friend. The facility is also accredited with the highest production standard accreditations.

"We're targeting a strong future growth for Afrique business through operating by our philosophy of quality and customer relationships," says Liezel van Bergen, sales and marketing executive for Afrique. "The enhanced manufacturing capabilities of the new facility will not only boost customer satisfaction, but also enable our brands to supply consistent, top quality pet food."



For more information, visit Afrique's website at www.afriquepetfood.com

GETTING DOWN TO THE BONE

By Julie Bezuidenhout - Accredited Animal Behaviourist



READER'S QUESTION – We have two German Shepherds. Mikey and Misha love toys but seem to destroy them very quickly, and I'm worried about choking. We were told by our vet to never give dogs rawhide products, which we do from time to time as they really enjoy them. We do also stuff toys with peanut butter and bread, which they enjoy, and get the large femur bones from our pet store, but they're quite costly. Can you give us a few hints and tips on chewable treats, which are safe, and how and when to give them to dogs? Also, we need to separate them when they have chew treats so they don't fight – is this the correct thing to do?

– BERNICE BROKKENHOVEN

JULIE SAYS – Dogs should be provided with edible chews to chew as this expends energy in a positive way. Toys are something to play with, not to eat, and the difference between chewing and playing needs to be learnt by the dog.

Chewing stimulates saliva enzymes and helps prevent plaque build-up on teeth and gum disease. And a dog chewing is less inclined to excessively scratch or lick his paws. However, many veterinarians believe it just isn't worth the risk of serious injuries to give your dog a bone. Here are some rules to follow for your dog's safety:

- Dogs should be taught how to play with a new toy, to avoid

it being chewed.

- All dogs should be allowed chew and play times on a regular basis.
- There are hundreds of varieties of chews on the market, and most owners learn what their dogs like and absolutely love to chew.
- Dog chews must be large – an estimate of size is that the chew should be larger than the size of the dog's head.
- All dogs should be supervised with chews.
- Using behavioural toys that are designed to have food (peanut butter) in them is also a great way of expending energy. The point here is to allow the dog to learn (or

LETTING YOUR DOG CHEW SAFELY



- teach him) that the food is for eating and the toy is not for chewing or eating.
- Each toy has its individual purpose. That's why some are made for chewing and others are made for exercise, and some are even meant to stimulate and engage brain function.
- Ideally, toys should be rotated so that they don't lead to boredom and loss of interest. Pet owners should make time in each day to engage with pets and their toys.

WHAT A VETERINARIAN SAYS...

Dr Johann Rauch of Alberton Pet Wellness Centre says that from a veterinary point of view, his opinion is that many dog owners believe that dogs are meant to eat bones like in the "old days". He says that the reality of it is that due to modern advances in pet nutrition and veterinary care, our dogs (and cats) live a lot longer than in the "old days". Back then, bones were also hazardous to dogs, but owners were less aware of them, and due to their shorter life spans, dental disease was less of a problem.

Bones carry the following risks:

- They can cause tooth fractures.
- They can damage the gingiva, which can lead to tooth root infections.
- They are choking hazards.
- They can get lodged in the oesophagus and penetrate the lungs or heart.

They can cause severe damage to the stomach lining if they're not digested fast enough.

Bones can cause perforation or obstructions anywhere along the intestinal tract.

They can also lead to constipation, which could end up life-threatening if not resolved timely.

Dr Johann is of the opinion that the problem with bones (and hooves, for that matter) is that they don't always cause a problem, which can give dog owners a false sense of security. A dog could be fed bones for years without the owner noticing any problems until that one day, which could be years down the line when dental disease and bad breath flare up or a life-threatening constipation develops. Or it could be the very first bone the dog gets access to that perforates its intestines and leads to a fatal infection. Therefore, in his opinion, bones are a big no-no.

He continues to say that unfortunately there's not one specific safe treat out there. Each breed and each individual dog has their own personality, and therefore, every dog's toy or treat should suit that specific individual.

When you need help choosing the right toys for your K9-companion, speak to your veterinarian or accredited behaviour consultant.

They'll be able to give you individual guidance.

NEVER SHOULD YOU EVER...

If you want to give bones to your dogs, here are important points to bear in mind to keep your dogs safe:

- Don't give your dog the wrong kind of bone.
- Don't give your dog cooked bones of any kind.
- Don't let your dog chew any kind of bone into small pieces.
- Don't give your dog chunks of bone that can cause blockages.
- Don't give your dog a bone if he has stomach problems.
- Don't give your dog a bone to chew on if there's another dog in the area or visiting.
- Always supervise and take the bone away from your dog after 10 to 15 minutes and put it in the refrigerator. Dispose of a bone after three or four days.
- When going over the pros and cons, you should do your research and discuss these issues with your veterinarian before deciding to give your dog a bone.



IF YOU WERE A DOG, what breed would you be?

1. *You've had a long week at work and it's time to unwind. Which weekend activity are you most likely up to?*
 - a. Lounging around in bed or on the couch and watching movies
 - b. Treating yourself to a day of pampering at a spa or getting your hair or nails done
 - c. Digging up weeds and working in the garden
 - d. Spending the day at the beach, dam or river
 - e. Going for a run, taking a fitness class, or hitting the gym
 - f. Going for a hike or bike ride
 - g. A little of everything – packing your weekend full of a variety of activities

2. *Your favourite television shows or series are –*
 - a. Comedies – the sillier the better
 - b. Reality shows that follow the lives of other people
 - c. Prank shows
 - d. Anything about nature or wildlife
 - e. Crime investigation and police shows

3. *Your family and friends would best describe you as –*
 - a. Stubborn
 - b. High maintenance
 - c. Energetic
 - d. Friendly
 - e. Protective
 - f. Brave
 - g. Versatile

4. *What's your idea of a perfect date?*
 - a. A picnic in the park
 - b. Dinner at a nice restaurant
 - c. Game night with another couple
 - d. Miniature golf or taking your date to the driving range
 - e. Playing frisbee in the park
 - f. Taking a stroll through a shopping mall
 - g. A night out on the town, partying at clubs



Take our dog breed quiz and find out!

5. *What is your dream job?*

- a. Comedian
- b. Personal shopper
- c. Rock star
- d. Park ranger
- e. Secret agent
- f. Rugby player
- g. Event planner

6. *Which of the following describes your style?*

- a. Comfortable attire – lounging around clothes
- b. The season's latest trends
- c. Bright fun colours
- d. A t-shirt and shorts
- e. A leather jacket and jeans
- f. Athletic gear
- g. You don't really have a style. It changes day to day

7. *Your idea of adventure is –*

- a. Holidaying at an all-inclusive resort
- b. Travelling to an exotic location
- c. Bungee jumping
- d. White water rafting
- e. Horseback riding
- f. Trekking through the Himalayas
- g. Going on a cruise

8. *When you run into a friend in the mall, you are most likely to –*

- a. Engage in friendly conversation while cracking a few jokes
- b. Tell them how fabulous it is to see them and invite them over for a glass of wine
- c. Say a quick "hello" but explain that you've got to run
- d. Stop and chat for a long time
- e. Wave "hello" but keep on walking
- f. Ask them about their family and dogs
- g. Find a coffee shop and chat about a variety of different topics

9. *Your favourite meal would be –*

- a. Fish and chips
- b. Anything vegetarian
- c. A toasted cheese sandwich
- d. A hot dog
- e. Meat, rice and vegetables
- f. A juicy steak
- g. Pizza

10. *Which of the following are you most likely to drive?*

- a. An old Volkswagen Beetle
- b. Pink Corvette
- c. Mini Cooper
- d. Jeep Wrangler
- e. BMW
- f. A bakkie or truck
- g. A Prius

Here are the results!

Mostly A's – Bulldog. Silly, relaxed and romantic.

Mostly B's – Poodle. Fashionable, health-conscious and likes to be pampered.

Mostly C's – Terrier. Fun, extroverted and competitive.

Mostly D's – Labrador. You love the outdoors and are adventurous and friendly.

Mostly E's – German Shepherd. Protective, intelligent and loyal.

Mostly F's – Pit Bull. Family-orientated, sporty and kind-hearted.

Mostly G's – A mixed breed. Easy-going, diverse and fun-loving. 



Give your puppy the right start for a healthy adulthood

As discussed in last month's Canine Zone, the transition from puppy to adulthood comes with many biological changes, and the food you feed should accommodate these changes. Pet parents need to provide the ideal balance of nutrients to facilitate the rapid growth in puppies and avoid over supply in adults.

Nutrients

Protein

Protein requirements are also much higher for puppies than adults. For this reason, Lionel's Choice's puppy contains a minimum protein content of 28%. Reduced levels of protein, like those found in Adult foods can cause a slower growth, anaemia, and reduced blood protein causing a decrease in antibodies, resulting in your puppy being more susceptible to diseases.

Calcium and Phosphorous

Crucial in the puppy development phase, a correct Ca:P ratio is vital for the formation of bones and teeth. Calcium and Phosphorus should be monitored to prevent a serious bone disease (osteofibrosis), which happens when there's minimal or no bone mineralisation of the skeleton. Normally this occurs when puppies are fed exclusively meat or homemade food without a mineral supplement. Using Lionel's Choice Puppy provides this balance through the feeding table that ensures neither insufficient nor excess calcium intake that is vital to skeletal development in puppies.

Vitamins

In nutrition, more is not always better when it comes to vitamins and minerals. An overdose of Vitamin D in puppies can cause hypertrophic osteopathy syndrome. This syndrome results in uncontrolled bone growth. The bones seem to "swell" and the puppy walks with a distinct limp. Vitamin D and calcium overdoses are unfortunately still frequent problems in large-breed puppies. The effects of this overdose are irreversible. Using Lionel's Choice Puppy provides this balance through the feeding table that ensures neither insufficient nor excess Vitamin D that is vital to skeletal development in puppies.

Vitamin A overdose is less common, and mainly due to feeding too much liver or cod liver oil. Too much Vitamin A prevents bone formation and results in a shortening of the long bones, along with bone deformation. Again, these effects are irreversible.

Lionel's Choice – A holistic formulation

Lionel's Choice dog foods are complete and balanced to meet all the nutritional needs of a growing puppy and adult dog in the respective Lionel's Choice Adult and Puppy to not require any additional supplements. Before supplementing diets, please consult your veterinarian or an animal nutritionist before doing so.



Lionel's Choice Adult and Puppy dog food is formulated for all dog breeds.

How you can make the transition easier

Slow and steady is champion when transitioning your dog from Puppy to Adult food. The transition to Lionel's Choice Adult should begin when your dog approaches adult height and weight. The kind of dog you have will determine the right time to switch. There's a difference between Large Breed and Small Breed puppies, with Large Breeds remaining in their puppy stage for much longer, sometimes up to 14 months.

Switching to Lionel's Choice

When you do switch to Lionel's Choice Adult, do so steadily, slowly introducing your dog to Lionel's Choice Adult by mixing in the adult food among your puppy food. Over the course of the next few days you'll gradually go from most of the food being puppy food, to a 50/50 split, and then Lionel's Choice Adult only.

How we make the transition easier

Lionel's Choice uses the same high-quality ingredients in both Puppy and Adult foods. This makes for consistency, with the only change being the nutrient specifications to meet the different life stage.

Feeding Puppy to Adults and vice versa

With the above in mind, you can see that there is a larger balance at play with Puppy and Adult food. Feeding puppy food to adults may seem appealing for higher protein, but with that comes a disruption in the balance of other nutritional needs such as energy, vitamins and minerals. Whereas feeding Adult food to puppies may come at an energy and protein deficiency to support a puppy's higher nutritional requirements.



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Anatomy of a dog: TEETH

By Aidan Wiggill



Did you know that dogs have two sets of teeth? A newborn puppy will typically be born without any teeth and will develop to having 28 within the first eight weeks, and a full adult set of 42 by the first seven months. For comparison, fully grown humans will typically have 32 teeth. A fully formed set of adult canine teeth will include the incisors, canines, premolars, and molars. These ensure that a dog has everything it needs for survival and self-defence throughout its lifetime. Dogs' teeth serve as weapons and as tools in the harshest and the most mundane of everyday conditions.

A dog's teeth are high-crowned and pointed, as with most other carnivorous animals, to facilitate the tearing and shredding of meat.

BITE

The force of a dog's bite is dependent on three factors: the size of their body, the size of their skull, and the shape of their jaw.

Dogs with bigger heads will likely have bigger jaws and thus the strongest bite force. The Kangal is currently the breed with the strongest bite force of any domesticated dog with a bite force of 743 psi (pounds per square inch). To put it in perspective, a human with stronger-than-average jaw strength would have a psi of about 140 psi. That's a difference of 603 psi! Even smaller dogs such as the French Bulldog are estimated to have a bite force of between 180 and 230 psi.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

While it may not form part of your weekly routine, it's extremely important to keep your dog's teeth clean. Brushing your dog's teeth with a pet-specific toothpaste and brush is the first defence against gum disease and other chronic issues, but there are also several chews and spray products that can aid in the strengthening and cleaning of your dog's teeth.

Dogs can also break or fracture their teeth, and just like us, they can also get gum disease. In addition, cracked and infected teeth can be an issue that you could easily miss on a daily basis. A dog's natural instinct is not to show signs of weakness, and even with a cracked tooth your dog would probably eat and behave as normal. A good idea would be to inspect your dog's mouth on a weekly basis to the best of your abilities or to take your pet to a vet for a more thorough inspection if you suspect that there might be a problem. 



An adult dog has a set of forty-two teeth

OUR LOVE, OUR ROO

By Natalie Kotzé

How a two-legged angel is helping others



Roo was rescued in 2018 in ThabaNchu by New Beginnings. This special boy was born without front legs, but that definitely doesn't stop him!

After receiving a wonderful donation of wheels from Judy Jooste from Vesper On Wheels, my hubby and I decided to "foster" him for a few days to help with settling him into his new wheels.

Well... the rest is history, because Roo stole our hearts! He's a part of our family, keeps us on the go, and is just so very special. Roo

doesn't know he's disabled, and he carries on like a normal pooch.

I take him to schools and businesses, and we do basic pet care education. We teach the kids about being different, and if you're born different, you're special. We also incorporate lessons on "bullying" and teach the kids that it's not cool to bully.

Roo is an inspiration and we can all learn from this special boykie! He's changed many lives and will continue to make a difference. Roo was born for a reason, and he

definitely rescued me!

Remember... be kind always and be thankful for what you have, as others aren't so lucky. 



10 SURPRISING DOG FACTS



Our dogs are part of the family, but sometimes they do things that leave you wondering why. Let's try and answer some of the most common questions that dog parents might have.

Q. Why do dogs lick people?

A. Dogs lick people and other dogs for a whole variety of reasons. Puppies will lick their mothers

or owners as a sign of affection or when asking for food. Once they're adults, licking becomes a sign of submission to an authority figure. When your dog licks you, they probably want something, like food or attention. Doggy kisses are also a way for your pet to feel better: Licking releases endorphins that calm and relieve stress.

Q. Why is my dog's nose always wet?

A. A common misconception is that your dog's wet

Here are the answers to some of the questions you've had about your fur kid

nose is a sign of good health. In reality, the moisture on your doggo's nose is no indication of their overall well-being. The reason for a dog's wet nose isn't completely understood, but one explanation is that dogs lick their nose throughout the day to keep it clean, and another is that the moisture helps them cool off. Dogs don't sweat the way humans do, so they pant and let off extra heat through their noses. A special gland in the nose produces a clear fluid that helps them cool down faster.

Q. Why do dog feet smell like corn chips?

A. Have you smelt your dog's feet and thought they smell like Fritos? The reason for this is that dogs have a lot of bacteria and yeast that grow on their paws as a result of moisture that gets caught in the many folds and pockets between their toes. These microorganisms create a variety of smells, and the bacteria *Proteus* or *Pseudomonas* will give your dog's tootsies a corn chip smell, which is completely normal.

Q. Is my dog's mouth clean?

A. Just like a human being, a dog's mouth is brimming with bacteria. Fortunately, a lot of those germs are specific to the species, so you don't have to worry about getting kissy licks from your dog.

Q. Can my dog be left-pawed?

A. Just like humans, dogs have a preferred paw. There's an equal chance your pup can be a lefty or righty, so the best way to find out is to perform a series of tests. Watch what paw your dog uses to shake, scratch at the door, or pull toys out from under the couch. Usually, a dominant paw will emerge with enough observation.

Q. Why do dogs walk in a circle before lying down?

A. Dogs get this behaviour from their wild ancestors who walked in tight circles to push down tall grass and shape it into a bed. The motion would also scare off any bugs and snakes hiding in the vegetation.

Q. Why do dogs sniff each other's rears?

A. Rear end sniffing gives a lot of information to other dogs they meet. The secretions released by glands in the rump tell other animals things like

the dog's gender, diet, and mood. Thank goodness that's not how we find out about each other!

Q. Do dogs dream?

A. You may notice your dog twitching or emitting light barks in his sleep. And just like us, dogs dream and go through REM sleep, which is the cycle in which humans experience dreams. Puppies and older dogs usually dream more often than middle-aged dogs.

Q. Why do dogs howl?

A. There are four main reasons for why dogs howl. Ancestry, communications, sickness or injury, and separation anxiety. Because dogs are related to wolves, they could still have the urge to howl. They might not even know why they're doing it. Howling is a normal thing for dogs to do as long as it's not chronic, pervasive or invasive.

Q. Why do dogs eat grass?

A. Sometimes dogs will eat grass because they have an upset stomach, and sometimes they may just be craving essential nutrients that they're not getting in their regular diet. Generally speaking, most experts see no danger in letting your dog eat grass in small amounts (assuming there are no pesticides and chemicals in the grass). If your dog has a sudden increase in grass eating, there could be an underlying issue that requires veterinary assistance.



Acknowledgements – www.mentalfloss.com and www.info.bestfriendspetcare.com



Dealing with MANGE

By Dr Larry Kraitzick, Bruma Lake Veterinary Clinic



Demodectic mange is caused by a cigar-shaped mite called *Demodex canis*. Demodex mites are normal inhabitants of a dog's skin that are passed to pups from their mothers in the first few days after birth. The mites then move deep into hair follicles where they reside, usually causing no skin disorders. Whilst a normal immune system will keep their numbers in check, in a dog with a weakened immune system, mites may multiply without restraint.

Predisposition to demodectic mange can be found in the following instances –

1. In dogs who inherit an abnormal immune system. These dogs often develop a serious condition known as juvenile Demodicosis
2. Elderly, sick, neglected, or stray dogs with weakened immune systems often develop demodex. An example of this is cancer, which can weaken a dog's immune system
3. Poor nutrition
4. Drugs which suppress the immune system
5. Other skin conditions
6. Hormonal conditions such as Diabetes

Demodex mites have been thought to only be transferable from mother to the newborn pup. After the pup is a week or so old, it was thought that it had developed enough immunity to prevent infection with new mites. This is probably usually the case; however, there have been cases when unrelated dogs in a household develop Demodex. Current thinking is that mites actually can be transferred from one dog to another, but as long as the dog is healthy, the mites simply add into the dog's natural mite population. Demodex mites definitely cannot be transmitted to humans or to cats.

SYMPTOMS OF DEMODECTIC MANGE

The localised form occurs as isolated scaly bald patches, usually on the dog's face, creating

a polka dot appearance (usually starting around the eyes).

A generalised form results in a much more extensive involvement of the skin. Large patches of skin are affected and, if left untreated, the entire skin of the dog may be affected. Sometimes there's a polka dot appearance, but if there are more than four spots present, the patient is treated for the generalised form. If there are secondary bacterial infections, the skin is itchy and often smells bad, and in these cases, antibacterial shampoos and/or antibiotics are added to the anti-mite treatment.

Demodectic Pododermatitis mange is confined to the paws, and bacterial infections usually accompany this condition. Also, as generalised demodicosis is treated, the foot may be the last stronghold of the mite.

TREATMENT

For severe generalised cases, long-term dog medications may be necessary to control the condition. Do note that it's always important to discover if there are any underlying diseases which must be treated or controlled simultaneously. There are many new oral systemic medicines that are effective against Demodectic Mange.

Females should be spayed, as fluctuations in hormones can exacerbate the disease. High-quality dog food and a low-stress home environment may also help reduce future flare-ups.



By Dr Larry Kraitzick

BVSc MRCVS

Facebook: @drlarrykrait

Demodex mites definitely cannot be transmitted to humans or to cats

If you suspect that your dog has Demodex, it's best to take him or her to your veterinarian for a check-up. There, your vet may perform skin scraping to check for mites, and in some cases of Deep Demodicosis, a skin biopsy may be required to find the mites. Note - Demodectic Mange is different to Sarcoptic Mange, often referred to as Scabies and caused by the Sarcoptic Mite. Sarcoptic Mange is usually contracted from other dogs. 



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Being there for Bailey

By the DARG team



Bailey grew up in a tiny space with high walls. He came to DARG matted and terrified of the world. His hair had grown over his eyes, so he couldn't see anything. When a leash was put around his neck, he defecated and cowered in fear and growled at those who approached him. DARG's managing director, Faustina Gardner, saw a little dog whose spirit had been stolen from him at a very young age. She took him into a room and sat on the floor.

After several minutes, he climbed onto her lap – the bond was formed, and his new journey had begun. As Bailey attempted to adjust to life in a large shelter, he showed he couldn't cope in a regular enclosure. He was put in a small room, which helped as it

mimicked his original set-up in the informal settlement. Bailey got startled at any noise and became increasingly distressed. The vet prescribed anti-anxiety medication, but even this wasn't touching sides.

Bailey needed a little miracle, as he simply wasn't coping in the shelter. Many adopters enquired about him, but he needed a very specific home as he was reactive around other dogs and difficult to handle given his excessive stress levels.

One morning, a lady came asking about fostering a dog. DARG likes to set fosters and adopters up for success along with the dog going into a home, so when she enquired about Bailey, it was explained that he wasn't an "easy" dog at all. But she kept returning

to his window and said she wanted to give him a chance. Once the home check had been done, off he went.

KEEPING UP WITH BAILEY

From his mum:

Within the first 15 minutes of being at my house, the fluffball that is Bailey had poed on the steps in fear and fallen into the pool. He gave credence to that expression "blind panic". Such was his anxiety that he spent almost the rest of the day dashing around the house in a kind of frenzy, before finally crashing out for a few days.

That was our foster intro. He also vomited in the sitting room, peed on the terrace and wouldn't go out for a poo unless accompanied. He didn't eat much those first



From a life of fear to a loving home

few days, and when we did start walking a little outside the house, it was always at very quiet times when we wouldn't see any other animals, as they sent him into a soprano-bark paroxysm of fear. Not surprising, given his earlier life trapped in a small space and having virtually no encounters at all.

Fast forward almost five months, and as I write this, Bailey is snuffling around the house looking for hidden treats. He has boundary-crept into my bed and is generally my constant companion.

This soft, sensitive, sweet mutt has acquired plenty of admirers from our jaunts around the Cape and to friends' houses – and divides his time between the multiple laps on offer wherever we go. On our walks he loves darting in and out of the sea and is learning, in a gauche way, to encounter other dogs. He eats with gusto now – this isn't a dog who fusses about kibble brands!

Bailey is super-smart and learns tricks at speed. We've figured the basic stay, leave-it, and watch and moved to more showy roll-overs, crawling and playing dead. As soon as the clicker comes out, he's all attention. Currently I'm trying to teach him to walk on my feet.

I've learnt so much from watching him investigate all that is new in his environment.

Thankfully, there's much generously offered guidance from DARG in managing his behaviour and helping him settle into his new world.

And so, we went unexpectedly, but speedily, from foster to adoption.

I don't know who feels luckiest – me or him.

For more information on DARG, visit their website on www.darg.org.za. They're situated on Main Road, Hout Bay, Cape Town. Phone: 021 790 0383. 



Tips and tricks on keeping dogs and cats stress-free for travel

By Anysha Roberts (Marketing Director – PETPORT)



Pet travel is a specialised relocation process; not only are delicate creatures that are unable to fully express their emotions or discomforts being moved, but we're also moving our client's family. While your pet shipper can control your whole relocation from start to finish, one thing that we aren't able to control are the stress levels experienced by pets while travelling. We can make sure that the travel crate is ventilated, the correct size and the right amount of meshing is used that keeps pets safe for travelling. The mental state of that pet before and during travel, however, is greatly in the hands of clients and the owners. There are many tips and tricks for keeping pets calm during travel, the majority of which are dependent on you, the parent.

Dogs tend to be vocal, sociable, and expressive of their emotions.

While comfort is key for a dog, they're extremely reliant on the emotions of their owners before travel. Remember, the more pedantic and stressed a parent is, the more stressed-out pets will be before travel.

Crate training is a critical process for ensuring that pets are comfortable and feel secure during travel. This is also something that can start in the early stages of the relocation. Crate training can start four months before relocation with the crate door open and a few treats inside the crate. Let the pet discover the crate on their own with a few comfort items inside. As your pet becomes more comfortable in the crate, complete a few trips around the neighbourhood in your car with your pet in the crate. Once they become more settled and relaxed, complete a longer road trip on the

highway with faster speeds to mimic airplane sounds – this is another trick to prepare your pet for travel.

CalmEze or herbal remedies – another trick for keeping pets calm during travel. CalmEze tablets in beef flavour is an excellent solution in preparation for travel. This can be administered a week before travel, or for any stressful situation. No sedatives should ever be administered for travelling pets.

Containment – Dogs need their routine for reassurance. Packing up your home during the relocation process can cause stress for your dogs. We always recommend booking kennels or getting the help of family right before your big move. The overwhelming stress of removal companies packing up your life while you're still having to provide a daily routine can cause stress on the WHOLE family. Having your dogs at either family, friends or at kennels where their needs can be taken care of while completing the final move will alleviate some of the stress.

Crate comforts – Make sure that you have a blanket or t-shirt that smells like home before travel. We recommend purchasing a blanket and using it as the family blanket for TV time. Keep a t-shirt in the crate for crate training and later for relocation. Having the same t-shirt in the crate will provide familiarity during travel. When



About PETport

PETport is a registered pet travel and relocation specialist service, affiliated with major international animal governing body, IPATA (International Pet Animal Transport Association) and ATA (Animal Transportation Association). With international training and hands-on experience passed down from one generation to the next, PETport is the best choice to transport fur babies, fluff babies and feather babies. For more information, email info@petport.co.za or call 0867 227 678.

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the time comes for relocation, place the family blanket as a base above the travel mat with the crate-fitting t-shirt. This will provide the smell of home and familiarity that will alleviate stress during long travel.

Limited feeding – Generally, the rule of thumb is that pets should only be fed six hours before travel, usually with something that's easily digestible. For dogs we recommend rice and chicken. Allow them to have water up until travel time in small sips. Pets can go up to two weeks without food, so don't worry about limiting their food intake before a flight. The change in flight and routine means they'll have a limited appetite either way.

Keep your routine, keep your cool – Pets love their routine, so don't change schedules trying to hide the pending movement. Make sure that they still have access to all toys and comfort items for as long as possible, and keep them in the same areas while still showing them continuous love and care. Routine provides a sense of stability for the whole family.

ALWAYS remember that the more stressed you are, the more stressed your travelling pet will be. So, remember to breathe – this is an incredibly daunting experience, but having professionals manage this from start to finish will alleviate the stress for your happy reunion. 

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Bernese Mountain Dog (-ology)

Exuding love and loyalty, a well-trained Bernese makes an excellent family member

The Bernese Mountain Dog is an extremely versatile working dog from the farmlands of Switzerland. They were developed to herd cattle, pull carts, and be watchdogs and loyal companions. They're one of four types of Swiss Mountain Dogs, and the only one with long hair.

It's said the Sennenhund breeds came about as crosses between farm dogs in Switzerland and mastiff-type dogs the Romans brought with them when they invaded the Alps about 2,000 years ago. Some don't agree with this theory because the remains of large dogs have been discovered in Switzerland dating to before the Romans came.

The Bernese Mountain Dog comes from the canton of Bern, hence their name. They're a large and sturdy dog breed, with a friendly and calm disposition, and they're also well-suited to obedience, tracking, herding, and carting competitions.

LIVING WITH A BERNESE

The Bernese Mountain Dog's size and high energy can make handling difficult. They don't appreciate being cooped up in the house all day because they have a lot of energy to expend. They shed a lot, and they tend to need the drool wiped from their faces now and again.

They have a tendency to bark very loudly. They may want to chase smaller animals and play

roughly, even though they're quite gentle when fully mature and trained properly.

This gorgeous breed will show unconditional love and loyalty, and a well-trained Bernese makes an excellent companion that'll adore the whole family. They love children and will even greet newcomers to your home, so long as long as they've had adequate socialisation training.

HEALTH AND CARE

A Bernese's life expectancy is between 7 to 10 years. The potential health problems that Bernese Mountain Dogs are prone to include:

- **Hip dysplasia** – hip joint laxity as a result of poor development, which will eventually lead to arthritis.
- **Elbow dysplasia** – elbow joint laxity as a result of poor development, which will eventually lead to arthritis in dogs.
- **Entropion** – inward-turning eyelids.
- **Gastric Torsion** – also called "bloat", this is a life-threatening condition that can affect large, deep-chested dogs such as Bernese dogs. This is especially

true if they're fed one large meal a day, eat rapidly, drink large volumes of water after eating, and exercise vigorously after eating.

Most health issues are due to irresponsible breeding. Never buy Bernese puppies from a pet shop or newspaper. Don't consider buying this breed if you live in a small apartment with no garden. The Bernese breed needs space. Weight range is between 30kg and 50kg for males and 36kg to 48kg for females.

The Bernese has a double coat with the guard coat longer than the undercoat and needs to be groomed every 4-8 weeks, with more frequent grooming during the shedding seasons of spring and autumn when they change coats.



FOCUS ON PEKINGESE HAVEN

Editorial supplied by Pekingese Haven



Life gives us two choices – to live oblivious or removed from the plight of others, or to get involved and help where possible. We chose to look into the eyes of souls who need rescue, protection, and safe haven, and we committed ourselves to doing all we can to make a difference.

Our passion is focused on the unique needs of a very misunderstood breed – the Pekingese. We've come to understand that, despite their undeniable cuteness and appeal as a fluffy addition to a family, not everyone is meant to be an owner of a Pekingese. Parents too often fall for the cries of their children wanting the cute "gremlin"-looking puppy (a first mistake); and backyard breeders want to make a "quick buck" and use the breed as an income stream despite no experience or knowledge at all. As a result, inbreeding-related disorders and medical conditions are on the rise – these include IVDD (Intervertebral disc disease), Entropion (an eye disorder), general deformities and other generic medical problems.

At the outset, we helped by accommodating a few Pekes at our home office in order to offer them a temporary safe haven and the chance to find a new home. However, this soon escalated, and it became vital for us to create a fully-fledged sanctuary for the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of the breed.

We were blessed to purchase a lovely smallholding in Brentwood Park agricultural holdings – here we provide a crucial bridge between the past, present and future as we help rescued Pekes in their quest to find good humans, loving families and secure homes.

THE BIRTH OF PEKINGESE HAVEN

We realised that we needed both a variety of skills sets, networks and funding streams and that it was important for us to build a team that could share a passion for the cause. As such, like-minded individuals came together and "Pekingese Haven" was born. Ouma Lin Diffenthal donated a significant amount of funds in memory of her husband, Theo Diffenthal (a passionate Pekingese owner himself), and we refer to her as our Haven Angel. This generous donation enabled us to build a beautiful frail-care section for our older, and more frail, rescued dogs.

Our passionate team of Directors are Herman van Heerden, Dianne van Heerden, Richard Lennard, Michelle Diffenthal-Lennard and Michelle Zerbe. We're a team who've fought hard to keep the sanctuary going through very difficult times. Behind the scenes we have an amazing team of ladies keeping our Facebook page alive and awesome, and the dream team ladies who are there when we need help or advice with challenging health issues and behaviour. They know who they are, and we couldn't do this without them! We're also very proud of our dedicated hardworking staff. We also hold hands with other reputable rescue organisations that jump in and help when help is needed. True heroes who want nothing in return but help selflessly to save the lives of the voiceless. We'd also not be able to stay afloat without the regular donations from our loyal supporters. Here we specifically single out the HR Specialists and the amazing Directors, Andre Locke and Herman van Heerden, from the Manhour business team – without their support, interest and generosity this sanctuary would not be able to survive!

HELPING THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE

We started helping Pekingese who were found



in various stages of neglect, rescued off rubbish dumps, abandoned on properties, and those who were surrendered to us. We usually find them matted and unkept, and too often, their spirits are destroyed – a shadow of the former bouncing puppy they used to be. Some of our rescues come into our care with aggressive behaviour – sadly, a direct result of owners who didn't care or as a symptom of intense pain and distrust. Too many owners aren't educated and informed about the needs of the breed and the importance of grooming and medical care.

As a rescue organisation, we typically start our work with these souls by taking them in for a full medical check-up. By clearly diagnosing the source of the problem, be it a spinal issue or challenges with breathing, we've helped many of our more aggressive Pekes regain their trust, their balance and their personalities. These little ones are now in approved, loving and savvy homes and can now live their best lives in spaces in which they're appreciated and valued.

EDUCATION IS KEY

It's clear to see that providing education is vital as a means of informing our society about the needs of the breed so that people can commit to a life-long relationship with their Pekingese, in the best interests of all parties. We've started educating families who approach us with a request to surrender their Pekes, and we walk a road with them to evaluate whether or not the reasons for surrender can be resolved. We've also created WhatsApp chat groups as a channel for providing advice and guidance, under the leadership of experienced behaviourists. These measures have helped to provide the information and support that people often need to ensure that they keep their Pekingese.

TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At present, we have 160 Pekingese in our care, and they're all waiting for a second chance and the love of committed human beings. Pekingese Haven will provide a safe haven to the forgotten, the old and the unadoptable Pekes who may never find a

"forever home", and this will be our honour and privilege.

Pekingese Haven is a registered non-profit organisation, and we rely on both our own fundraising efforts and donations from the public to continue doing our work in support of the breed. Unsurprisingly, the impact of Covid-19 and the resultant job losses and salary cuts for many has led to a corresponding influx of surrendered Pekes into our care. This, in turn, directly increases our operational costs – across the spectrum of our medical bills and our daily sanctuary expenses. Where we have Pekes who aren't coping within a sanctuary environment, we place the little ones into our network of approved foster homes. This has proven to be a very powerful resource network in blessing rescued Pekes until such time as they're able to find their forever homes. In accordance with our standards, all of our Pekes are sterilised, vaccinated, dewormed and microchipped before being placed into new homes, and we're committed to regular grooming and tick/flea control procedures. We have a strict adoption process that involves an application and vetting process so that we're sure that the souls entrusted into our care go to the perfect homes.

If you'd like to adopt or donate, call Diann van Heerden on 083 419 9110, Herman van Heerden on 083 278 1062, or Michelle Zerbe on 071 365 3273. You can also email us on pekingeshaven2015@gmail.com or diann@manhour.co.za 





There's nothing cuter than a Pekingese puppy – that adorable ball of fluff would melt anyone's heart, and therein lies the problem. People don't do their homework on the breed and often find themselves not able to cope with all the challenges. Pekingese need to be groomed often; they often suffer from IVDD (Intervertebral Disc Disease). Being a brachycephalic breed (short-headed), they are prone to breathing difficulties due to the shape of their heads, muzzle, and throat. They often have "small dog syndrome", so not a dog to have with large-breed dogs. I know people will disagree, but I've been in rescue since 2011 and often these Pekingese are surrendered or dumped because they get bitten by the bigger dogs. Often the big dog and the Pekingese have been together since puppies, then one day it all changes. A Pekingese in any fight or scuffle will come off second best, so many of them end up losing an eye in the scuffle or end up losing their life.

Look at any SPCA – you'll find a Pekingese up for adoption. Pekingese

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY CHRISTINE MCLAUGHLIN

Haven has over 100 dogs looking for homes. Why do people not stop to think why? I've adopted many Pekingese since 2012; all of them have been neglected, traumatised, some blind, some with one eye, some with health challenges – does this not tell you that buying that cute "ball of fluff" without doing your homework is setting up the dog for failure? We, as a society, have become very superficial; if the novelty wears off, get rid of it like a piece of trash.

Sachi was rescued in June 2016, a walking skeleton, covered in matted fur. He was scavenging in rubbish bags looking for food. He was rushed through to the Pekingese Haven Vet where it was found he was malnourished and had severe biliary. He needed many blood transfusions and medication to save his life. Why somebody would do this to any dog is something I cannot understand. His hip bones had broken through the skin – there was no fat on him at all. I fostered him once he could leave hospital and immediately fell in love. Sure, he had his issues: he didn't like to be picked up and he cowered if anyone raised their voice, but with patience and understanding, he blossomed into a beautiful, big fluffy boy. I've had him now for five years, and he's nothing like the dog that was rescued in 2016. He's an amazing family member, and I just thank God that there's a Pekingese Haven for all the Pekingese like Sachi out there.

Often people say the adoption process is too strict, which I find curious, as the rules are there to protect the dog you're wanting to adopt. Rules are there for a reason so that the adopted dog doesn't have to be re-rescued and is placed in a home where it will be safe. Your adopted dog is sterilised, vaccinated, microchipped, dewormed and has had a full medical check by a veterinarian.

I've fostered and adopted from Pekingese Haven many times, and I can honestly say the process was easy. I know the breed. I know they're prone to certain medical issues; I know they need to be groomed, they're inside dogs, they can't swim, they're not street-savvy. They can be grumpy, but if you do your homework and are committed to this special breed, what an awesome addition to your family. If the shelter suggests making your pool or driveway safe, do it. They're not being difficult; it's to protect your adopted dog.

Adoption is the way to go in this day and age as there are so many dogs in rescue who, through no fault of their own, have landed up looking for a new home. My advice is adopt with your heart, not your eyes. If you do this, you'll see all the little treasures just waiting for a second chance. Stop looking for perfection – we, after all, as humans aren't perfect, but does that mean we all don't deserve love? Give a shelter Pekingese, or any shelter dog or cat, a forever home. The rewards will be worth it.

DUTCH AND TOBY ARE HOME

BY CEDRIC DOBBS & SHAUN BRENDON DOBBS

When Diann from Pekingese Haven contacted me about writing an article giving an account of our experience with the Pekingese breed of dog, at first, I was excited. There was so much to say. However, as the minutes and hours went by, admittedly I became a little more anxious about the prospect of doing so.

Being a great lover of all animals, it

certainly isn't difficult to express excitement and joy at the prospect of being in the presence of any animal in need of love and attention. Putting pen to paper and giving an account of our experience in adopting two Pekes from Diann's haven and then describing how our lives have changed since these two animals became part of our family, suddenly became somewhat daunting.

I needed to make sure that I got it right. I needed to ensure that the people reading our story could feel just how amazing our experience has been.

In March 2020, South Africa went into lockdown; what followed was, through our eyes, horrific. Pets all over SA were being surrendered. This, of course, was nothing new, but the velocity with which it was happening was devastating. We

couldn't believe it – we were horrified. We decided that we wanted to help and adopt a dog in need. After some researching, we were referred to Pekingese Haven and I was given Diann's number. She responded immediately, so happy to hear of our interest in one of their rescues. By the following morning I was on my way to meet a blind black dog. Unfortunately, he didn't respond well to me. He'd been abused, and most likely by a man. They realised then that he'd need to be homed with a woman. In another pen, waiting to be viewed, was Dutch. I called out to him and immediately he responded, excited to hear this friendly voice. He too was blind. I went to meet him, and he was so welcoming and so happy for the attention. After learning that he and his brother had been abandoned by their previous family and left locked up in an empty house, I wanted even more to help him. Long story short, after all the required inspections and checks were carried out, we officially adopted him, and he joined our family on the 21st of May. Our home already had four cats, and we were concerned about how they'd all interact. Dutch was initially quite rattled by all the new smells and was beside himself, running excitedly, up and down, in and out, chasing the smells wherever they led. As the days and weeks went by, he settled in perfectly. The cats, now accustomed to having this little blind fella wandering around, settled down as well. He had boundless energy and was full of love. His disability really didn't seem to be too much of an issue to him. Yes sure, he bumped into things occasionally, and he needed a

safe environment, but we made it comfortable for him and he blossomed. He latched on to me, giving us lots of love and affection.

It didn't stop there – Dutch had settled in so well, teaching us so much about how much this breed had to offer, that we decided to reach out and adopt another. Enter Toby. What a beautiful soul. We heard of his story, that he was found wandering the streets, lost and alone, so hungry that he'd been trying to eat stones, and in so doing had ground his teeth down. He was malnourished and had health issues, and his fur was blotchy and bald in places due to his dire circumstance. When we first met him, he bolted towards us, all excited and full of energy. He took to Shaun immediately, licking, growling, and barking with excitement. We knew he was the one and he went home with us on the same day, the 16th of August, having already been through all the required vetting. He too responded well to the family of cats and Dutch. Of course, it took a couple of weeks of training for him to settle down with the cats and for him to realise that he and Dutch were both part of the family and that we all got along well together in the household. Toby was full of love, energy, and affection – he was a perfect fit.

What's been amazing with both is that they've grown so much in the time we've had them. Toby's hair has grown back beautifully, and he's a bundle of joy. He loves playing with his toys and with us. He has an extremely healthy appetite and barks excitedly at mealtime, and even Dutch does dances of excitement when it's time for food.

Their confidence is awesome to see; they love going for walks and they love play time. They get along brilliantly with little kids and relish affection from them. Quite remarkably, they're both house-trained, and we've had very few accidents. Bath time is a breeze, with both having great trust in us, and they're well behaved and go through the motions with no issues whatsoever.

To sum things up, since adopting Dutch and Toby, we've added another three animals to our family, rescuing two rabbits and another cat. We're blessed in that they all get along beautifully. There are no issues, and the rabbits run circles around all of them, playing and looking for attention. They all take the activity in their stride. Every day we're amazed by these two guys; we love them with all our hearts. We're so thankful that we made the decision to have them join our family. We wouldn't have it any other way.

If you're considering rescuing a Peke, without doubt, they're beautiful, affectionate, well-balanced animals. They'll bring love, light, and joy to any household. Give them a chance – you'll be so happy you did.



PEKE LOVE

BY MARLENE EMSLIE

After having Scotties for many years, in mid-2017 I decided to adopt a Peke. The breed had always fascinated me, but I honestly knew nothing about them. I contacted Diann at Pekingese Haven and told her I was looking for a little girl. She sent me photos, I checked on the website, and then I made an appointment to go and see them. On that day they probably had about 160 or so, and

I looked at many of them, all beautiful, playful, and some absolutely stunning. I just wasn't sure who to pick. I asked if there were any others and was told there were, but they all had something wrong with them. The picture of Lady was still in my mind, and she happened to be in this area – she only has one eye, but then, no one's perfect – and I asked to see her. Well, it was love at first sight!

When I picked her up, I did something you should be careful of doing with a strange Peke – I just held her and snuggled her. She licked my face all over, and that was it. She chose me, not the other way around, and I felt so honoured that this girly, who'd been through so much in her short life, trusted me straight away and felt so comfortable with me. I currently have two foster Peke babies

as well – Teddy, who has congenital heart failure and we take things one day at a time, and Noddy, who's a young, boisterous little boy, and who was also dealt a raw deal in life.

Lady, however, is the queen of this castle. She bosses everyone around, including me! Rescues never take anything for granted – they love you unconditionally no matter what. They just want to be close to you, and when you live alone and work from home as I do, this is the highlight of every day for me. We've been through a lot together, including a devastating house fire on the evening of the 26th of June 2019. God was good – we all escaped without even singeing a hair.

Mostly I want to say to all those considering a rescue fur baby – these dogs have a history, sometimes not a good one. Don't treat them like brand-new puppies, as some come out of horrific

circumstances. They need time to settle into your home, and they need time to get to know you and to learn to trust once again. It won't be an overnight process, so please, please, give them the time and the space they need to fit into a loving happy home; something that many may never have experienced before. Don't be in a hurry. If you can just give them lots of unconditional love, I can guarantee you'll have the most affectionate, happiest fur baby ever. One that will fulfil your life in more ways than you can imagine!

Diann and her team at Pekingese Haven are the most amazing, loving, selfless, dedicated group I've ever met. They make very sure that once they agree to you adopting one of "their" babies from Peke Haven, this little one will have its happy forever home. For those of you thinking the system is just too

strict and ridiculous, please do yourself a favour and make an appointment to see the many dumped, unwanted Pekes before passing judgement. They know what these dogs have been through and want to ensure it never happens again. Go on, adopt a rescue – you'll never regret your decision!



No, this isn't a lie. As a family with eight Peke boys ranging from seven months to twelve years old, we have our fair share of excitement, laughs, joy and sadness. Our oldest, Gizmo, has been in my wife's life since he was a puppy, and I became his human dad when we met five years ago.

I don't know how we discovered Pekingese Haven, but this was the best chance discovery ever. It didn't start that well, as the little fellow that we first brought home didn't fit in, and at that stage it could've all ended there. Fortunately, this wasn't the case. We were made aware of a little chap at the SPCA, Teddy, by the wonderful

Pekingese Haven team, and from there the rest is history with numerous foster fails that have turned into adoptions.

We'd discovered the most amazing breed – each little guy has their own incredible personality and own quirks, but that's what makes the Peke the most amazing family member. When one brings a Peke home, we've learnt that you need to spend the time to get to know each individual as they're not all alike.

What we discovered is that what outwardly might seem like a snap or a snarl is the little guy's way of telling you what he's feeling and what he wants you to do. Our second addition, Ollie, will let you or the other pups around know when you're doing something that he doesn't like or getting in his space. He is, however, a real sweetie and just wants love.

Trust, loyalty and forgiveness is what Einstein, our next adoptee, has taught us. He was abused, left to fend for himself and had one eye severely damaged. The love and affection that this little man gives us and seeks from us is really special. A damaged body but a beautiful soul.

The rest of the tribe is made up of

our Dopey Buckley, little baby Sheldon, energetic Triton, and our newest foster, Leo, a little boy who needs lots of love. Give a Peke a chance and they'll creep so deeply into your heart and soul before you realise it. We know this, as during this journey we've lost one of our special little boys, Sebastian, Sheldon's little brother, suddenly during a routine operation. He'll never be far from our hearts and thoughts.

Spend the time, get to know the individual personality, and you'll be rewarded by a lifetime of wet nose kisses and cuddles. Your life will be so much richer and rewarding, but don't expect to walk away with your heart, as they'll steal it forever.



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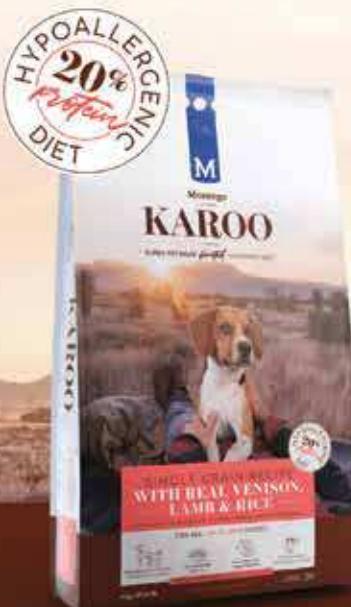


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