

# The **Dog Lovers Guide**

199 things you need know to  
make your life easier and  
your dog's life happier

## **Hints & Tips For Dog Lovers**

Getting A Puppy

Dog Training & Behaviour

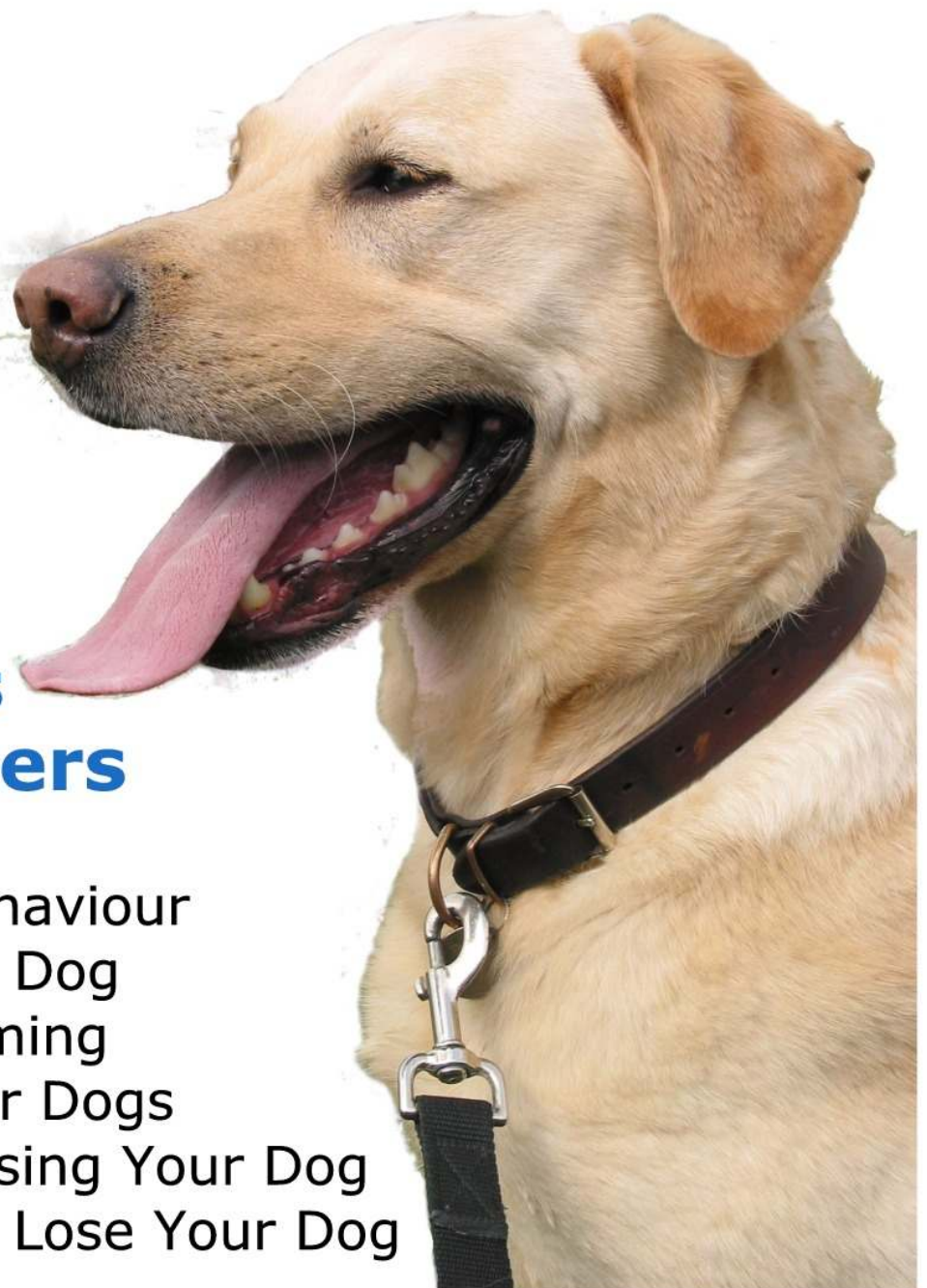
Keeping A Healthy Dog

Feeding and Grooming

Looking After Older Dogs

How to Prevent Losing Your Dog

What To Do If You Lose Your Dog



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# Forward

Everything you ever wanted to know about getting, owning and living with a dog in your life (almost!). From the sublime to the ridiculous – you will find it all between the covers of this book.

So sit back, relax and choose how you want to use this book – you can read through all the facts and figures at your leisure or search out the specific fact you are looking for – the choice is yours.

Either way, this book has been put together with many hours of loving research by those who are lucky enough to share their lives with a dog and happy to pass on personal experiences – good and bad! In order that you can enjoy your dog to the full.

We hope that you enjoy reading this book as much as we enjoyed writing it.

Richard Cussons  
July 2004

# Dog Training

## 1) Chewing

Puppies are not too smart. After all, they soon think of you as their mother and of themselves as human. Well, maybe that is smart after all, since both draw you two closer. But, they simply don't know the difference between that great rope with knots that pet stores sell for tug of war and your favorite shoe. This is where you need to show your superior intellect. You need to never, ever let anyone play tug of war with the puppy or teach him to let go on command right from the very beginning. Otherwise, he will dig his teeth into your favorite shoe deeper and deeper as you try to grab it away from him. Tug of war can also cause him to become possessive enough to snap someday when someone tries to take a toy from him – the consequences of which can be terrible, especially if it is a small child involved.

## 2) Letting Go

To get a dog let go of one item simply offer him another, which can be a toy or treat, while you give him a command ("drop it" or "let go" or "out"). Praise him the second he lets the item drop. If you don't pick up the item, you eliminate his desire to guard it. Let him pick it back up, you offer something else while saying the command, and praise him when he lets go.

Learning to let go on command could even save his life someday if he were to pick up something poisonous or sharp. You may even need to have him release his bite on a person someday.

## 3) Run The Other Way

Your dog won't come when you call his name? Something as simple as running in the other direction whilst calling your dogs name is usually very effective.

## 4) Control Puppy Chewing

If you catch your pup in the act of chewing anything but his own toy, remove the object and replace it with an acceptable chew toy. If your pup then chews on his toy, praise him. Always reinforce desired behavior with praise.

## 5) Choosing A Trainer

Radically different approaches to dog training are used by professional dog trainers, and you need to know very clearly the training philosophy of anyone you are considering to work with your dog -- or the style you yourself will use. One

style is highly authoritarian and may include strategies that force a dog to submit physically to the will of the trainer. Another well-known approach focuses on positive reinforcement to achieve the behaviors you wish your dog to have.

Unless you live in a very small town, you will have many different choices for your dog's education. The prices generally will vary based on the amount of personal attention your dog gets. You can choose a dog behavior specialist who works just with your dog. Or you can join a large dog obedience class offered by a local dog club.. Decide based on your dog's needs and personality, what you can afford and recommendations of people who have used the trainer or program.

While most owners want an obedient dog, obedience training goes much further than that. Obedience training involves three basic levels of training, novice, open and utility.

Enrolling a young dog in an obedience class is important for more than the training itself. The social experience of being around strange humans and dogs is also beneficial. A young dog must have all its vaccinations before being exposed to strange dogs, however.

## **6) Loveable Hands**

Make your hands lovable! Never hit your dog or throw things at your dog. If you do, he/she will become afraid of your hands. You want your hands to be the best things in your dog's world: for love when you pet it, for food when you give him dinner, and for safety when you need to hold him. Make your dogs LOVE your hands. Be gentle and be kind.

## **7) Train, don't complain!**

Instead of complaining that your dog doesn't do this or that, show him/her what you want. But remember, a dog doesn't understand our language (Spanish, English, Vietnamese, etc.), and they learn about the same as a 2-year old child. You wouldn't scream "sit down" to a 2-year old child and expect them to know what it means if they've never been shown first! So, show your dog what you want, first. (ie: put him into a sitting position whilst giving him the command "sit", follow with lots of praise)

## **8) Calm, Calm, Calm**

Have some type of pet calm product safe for dogs handy for those who suffer from separation anxiety or thunderphobia (Rescue Remedy, Nutri-calm, Clomicalm, valerian, melatonin)

### **9) Helicopter!**

How to keep a dog from helicoptering out of it's collar and lead: drop down on your knees and pull immediately down on the lead close to the collar.

### **10) Patience**

Yelling gets you nowhere with a dog. Their feelings are easily hurt and they try so hard to understand you. Gentle demonstration works wonders, supported by praise

### **11) Reward the behavior you want**

Saying "No" might stop an undesirable behavior, but it doesn't tell the dog what you want him to do. When teaching "cat-cohabitation" ... tell the dog what a good dog they are for not raising their head off the floor when the cat walks by. When housebreaking, praise them while they are peeing outside. When they are chewing on your antique dining table's leg, hand them a knucklebone and tell them what a good doggie they are when they begin chewing on it. Always reward the dog when you have to give pills, change bandages, etc. The dog will learn that it does get a treat for a little discomfort and will let you do it more easily next time.

### **12) Commands List**

When leaving a young dog at a boarding place or in other hands temporarily, it is a good idea to write out a list of the common words or commands the dog has been taught. This is handy for the new keeper and lessens the homesickness of the dog.

Be clear and consistent from the start, rather than letting him run wild for the first few weeks and then clamping down when the behavior isn't so cute anymore.

### **13) Bad Habits**

Don't wait for him to develop bad habits, like chewing the furniture or urinating on the carpet, before you intervene. Assume this behavior is likely to happen, and act preemptively to manage it before it develops.

Supply your dog with acceptable outlets for his doggy behavior, rather than punishing it.

### **14) Avoid Rewarding Anxious Behaviors with Attention**

It is very natural when your dog is anxious or upset to try to reassure your pet. By reassuring your nervous pet, you are actually reinforcing their fear and anxiety with your voice, your words, and your attention. Owners must try to reward their pet for being relaxed at any time. The more that they are relaxed and their behavior rewarded the more these relaxed behaviors are generalized

into everyday life. All family members need to help reward these relaxed behaviors.

### **15) Avoid Punishment as a Treatment Measure**

Dogs cannot learn when they are punished after the event for any bad behavior. Punishing an already anxious dog makes matters worse. If there is damage or soiled area, it should be cleaned quickly and quietly.

### **16) 8 Reasons to Use a Crate**

1. Housetrain your dog – Efficient in humane training aids, crates take advantage of the dogs' natural tendency to keep its sleeping area clean, However, you should only crate your puppy for as long as it can reasonably control its bladder and bowels. Then always make sure it gets to go out afterwards.
2. Protect your dog – Crating a dog prevents it from chewing electrical cords or eating poisonous plants, toxic cleaning fluids, These are only a few dangers awaiting new dogs left alone in a home.
3. Protect your property – A crate varies in cost depending on size. That is a bargain compared to the cost in replacing a furniture and other belongings your dog can destroy.
4. Curb and prevent separation anxiety – You love your dog, but can not spend every minute of the day with him/her. The crate can help you teach your dog to enjoy spending time alone.
5. Introduce chew toys – A dog engrossed in chewing a toy will stay out of mischief. Give your dog time in its crate with 2 stuffed chew toys, and it'll become hooked on its crate and stay out of trouble.
6. Give a timeout – A new dog gives you great rewards , but it can also drain you. If your dog becomes excessively excited or starts nipping, use the crate for a brief timeout. DO NOT do this to punish your dog. (Never use a crate negatively). Rather the timeout allows your dog to regain its compromise so it can interact appropriately with you.
7. Travel safely - Whether your dog travels by air or car, a crate is one of the best ways to ensure safety.
8. Provide security – Crates provides your dog with its own quiet place to hang out-especially important if you have a busy household and children.

Also let your children know not to bother your dog while it is inside the crate. That's its quiet time.

### **17) Shake For Attention**

Take an empty plastic milk/juice/cider jug. Throw some pennies in (approx. 10) and cap the jug. When you shake the jug hard (just for a moment) it serves as a completely harmless but effective deterrent for behaviors you need to stop immediately (dog is preparing to sniff hot burner, is jumping on someone and about to knock them over, has kitty in its mouth ...). Obviously, it is helpful to have several of these around the house so that they are within reach. Distraction is a valuable method.

### **18) Introducing Dogs**

The most successful way of introducing dogs of any age seems to be on neutral territory. Have both dogs leashed with a friend handling the other dog and have them meet in a place which neither consider their territory.

Before moving to the home, have the home prepared by picking up any food or toys, which may cause possessiveness by the dog already living in the home. Remember to keep your tense or apprehensive feelings in check as the dogs may pick up on it and act. Keep cool.

# Dog Behavior

## 19) Home Alone

Some dogs have trouble coping when they are left alone. You'll know if yours does if he was destructive while you were gone or if your neighbors tell you he barked all day. You can teach him to cope, while reassuring him that you will come back - both leading to much better behavior and a much happier dog.

## 20) Aggressive Canine Body Language

When reading a dog's body language, you'll find that an aggressive dog has its ears flattened back against its head, its eyes narrowed or challenging, body tense, mouth open to show teeth and tail held out from the body and fluffed up if possible. Snarls or growls are typical.

## 21) Worried Canine Body Language

You need to learn how dogs communicate and what their body language means if you are going to be a happy dog owner. For example, sharp barks combined with growling, ears flattened and neck hairs raised means "I'm worried" or "something is wrong."

## 22) Medical Behavior

Behavior problems can be medically related. Before trying to solve a behavior problem, make sure that your dog is healthy – a quick visit to the vet is all that is usually required.

## 23) Dominant Dog

When reading a dog's body language, you'll find that a dominant dog has its ears straight up or forward, its mouth slightly opened or closed, its eyes open wide or staring, its body standing stiff and tall with hackles possibly raised, and its tail out from the body stiffened or fluffed. A low and assertive vocalization is expected.

## 24) Friendly Dog

When reading a dog's body language, you'll find that a friendly dog has perked up ears, open and alert eyes, a relaxed mouth, a tail or whole rear end wagging, and possibly whimpering, yapping or giving short barks.

### **25) Lets Play**

You need to learn how dogs communicate and what their body language means if you are going to be a happy dog owner. For example, a bow position with wagging tail means “let’s play.”

### **26) I Submit!**

A dog communicates with its ears, tail, paws, mouth and more. For example, a dog with its ears tightly back, eyes closed and paw raised is showing extreme submission. The dog isn’t happy but shows it will not attack.

### **27) First Meeting**

When approaching a dog to pet it, make sure you have the owner’s permission. Then reach out an open hand under the dog’s chin to pat its chest. Don’t reach out to pet its head unless it’s a dog that knows you well. Otherwise, it may make a dog feel uncomfortable or threatened

### **28) Your Body Language**

Successful dog training requires that your body language, including facial expressions, and your voice tones must be consistent with your commands to the dog. Develop one voice to use when praising your dog, typically cheerful and higher pitched, and another voice when correcting your dog, firm and lower pitched. Be consistent in using these voices and your dog will learn to understand you.

### **29) Stand Up Straight**

A dog owner’s body language is one of the most influential training tools available, along with voice tone. Standing straight and firm gives a dog a sense that you are in charge, in command. Crouching down to a dog invites play or informal behavior. A dog can also read your facial expressions, a smile or frown, as well as eye contact.

### **30) Match Your Voice To Your Message**

A dog owner’s voice and vocal tones are among the most influential training tools available, along with body language. A cheerful, inviting voice can entice a dog to come or convey your praise. A stern voice conveys seriousness and possibly displeasure. Be sure to match your voice to your message.

### **31) Chasing Bicycles**

Chasing bicycles can be dangerous for your dog and the cyclist. He starts because it looks like fun. He continues because he wins. So, set him up to lose. Arrange for a friend to ride past your house while you are outside with your dog. When your dog starts chasing the bicycle, your friend should stop suddenly and

yell "No!" as he squirts him in the face with a water gun. If your dog loves water, your friend can use an air horn instead. A third choice is for your friend to drop a sealed can containing lots of coins right in front of the dog. Your dog won't be expecting any of these things, and he won't like any of the sudden "shocks." Most importantly, he "loses"!

### **32) Unwanted Domestic Help**

Dog "attacks" the lawn mower, water hose, vacuum cleaner, or other appliance. Put dog in another part of the house before using the appliance. Train dog to accept device by pairing low-intensity exposure to the appliance with treats when dog is calm. Slowly (over many sessions) increase the intensity of the exposure and rewarding the dog when he is calm again.

### **33) Your Reactions Affect Your Dog's Actions**

If you allow your dog to be rewarded for some action, he's likely to repeat it. Consciously allow rewards to happen for actions you like, and prevent your dog from getting rewarded by you or the environment for actions you don't want to encourage.

### **34) Dogs Do What Works**

Dogs will act in ways that they've learned are successful, ways that gain them Good Things and help them avoid Bad Things. Behavior that is rewarded is going to be repeated.

### **35) Leaving Your Dog**

Any dog in a new home needs to know that you will always come back, before you go off for a work day or a few hours of errands. Make the place they are going to stay when you are out a fabulous, joyous place. Spend time there with them, with treats and toys. After a while of this, do all the things you do before leaving the house, without leaving, over and over. Start infinitesimally small departures -- just out and back in to the house. Build up to longer times.

### **36) Dogs Like Radio & TV**

If you have to leave your dog alone in the house leave a radio or TV on in the area that they are in. This can give them a little company. (There are many new video and audiotapes now available for both dogs and cats. These are a very good idea for a pet that has free access to the entire house.

### **37) Who's Boss?**

Always let them know who is alpha of the house (YOU are!)

### **38) Don't Worry**

Whatever you're doing, stay calm. Dogs worry if you worry. Calm other people if they're worrying around your sick dog. Give panicked people a task to do.

### **39) Fear is Boring, Yawn!**

If you have a dog that is fearful of something (say, loud noises), don't cuddle and coo to your pup or say, "there, there, good dog" when it's scared. Instead, yawn widely and noisily (a calming signal to dogs) and then jolly your pup -- "Oh my, what a big, silly noise that was!" -- in a very cheerful, laughing voice. If you coo to your dog and say "good dog," you just end up teaching it that it's good to be fearful of loud noises.

### **40) Dog Is A Dog Is A Dog**

Expect your dog to act like a dog. Don't take it personally when he exhibits typical canine behavior. He's not being "bad," he's just being a dog.

### **41) Guilty Owners**

Don't lay guilt trips on your dog. "Dogs are neither moral nor immoral," she says. "They're amoral, meaning that they respond to what they understand to be the consequences of their behavior. So manipulate those consequences."

### **42) Be Sociable**

Provide a wide variety of social interactions every day. Solitary confinement is awful for dogs as well as humans - dogs are social animals too.

### **43) Negative Attention**

Often, dog owners inadvertently reinforce their dogs' misbehavior, by giving their dogs lots of attention (albeit negative attention) when they misbehave. Needless to say, if your dog receives lots of attention and handling when he jumps up on you, that behavior is being reinforced, and is therefore likely to be repeated.

### **44) Keep A Lid On Your Anger**

Never train your dog when you're feeling grouchy or impatient. Earning your dog's respect is never accomplished by yelling, hitting, or handling your dog in a harsh manner. Moreover, studies have shown that fear and stress inhibit the learning process.

### **45) Stubborn! Me?**

Many owners complain that their dogs are "stubborn", and that they "refuse to listen" when given a command. Before blaming the dog when he doesn't respond to a command, one must determine whether or not;

- a) the dog knows what the owner wants

- b) he knows how to comply
- c) he is not simply being unresponsive due to fear, stress or confusion.

#### **46) Keep Your Guard**

Never let your guard down if you have multiple pets living in the same home together (cats, rabbits, other dogs). This goes for even the most harmonious home.

#### **47) Tips for Dogs Afraid of Thunderstorms**

Many dogs are afraid of thunderstorms, and dog owners are often looking for some suggestions on dealing with this problem.

1. Be careful not to comfort your dog in a sympathetic voice when the dog acts afraid. This can make your dog feel even more than there really is something to fear. Instead of a sympathetic voice, use a happy, jolly, playful voice--a hearty voice. This may help give your dog confidence. If you can get your dog to play with you during a storm, that is ideal.
2. Some dogs will need medication to cope with this. Your veterinarian can help there. Also, ask the veterinarian if it would be safe to try Rescue Remedy with your dog. That is not a veterinary medication, but some people report good results from it. Your vet will know if it's okay to try with your dog.
3. Be sure to provide your dog with a safe place to be during storms, and not outside. Many dogs have been lost when they ran from their fenced yards in terror during storms. Your dog may want to rest in a dog crate in a quiet room.
4. Some people also report their dogs do better with some background noise from television or radio,. Some people have made an audiotape of thunder noises, and by playing it softly, then gradually louder and louder, the dog gets used to it. This wouldn't fool all dogs, but it might be worth a try if your dog is very frightened

#### **48) Fireworks**

Avoid exposing your puppy or dog to fireworks noise, as fireworks can result in serious (and often long term) phobias. Unfortunately, in many communities, firecracker noise often begins weeks before the July 4th holiday. Keep evening walks with your dog very brief, and never leave your dog outdoors in your yard or property if there is any risk of exposure to firecracker noise. When indoors, try to disguise outdoor noises with music, television, air conditioners and "white noise"

machines. Otherwise, if at all possible, consider taking a short vacation with your dog to a quieter community where firework noise is minimal.

#### **49) Stop Gardening**

If your dog digs up the garden or lies in the flower beds Put a low but sturdy fence around landscaped areas. If your dog loves to dig, provide a sandbox with occasional buried treats or toys. The sand will be cleaner than dirt, and the dog can be rewarded for satisfying his digging need where you direct. Make sure dog is cool enough (in summer) and warm enough (in winter), as digging can be a method of heat control.

#### **50) Pepper**

Backfill with cayenne pepper (topped with clean dirt) all holes dug near the fence line. Most dogs won't dig through the pepper. (Partially filled balloons lightly covered with dirt may also be used in the holes left by digging dogs.)

#### **51) Bad Garden Smells**

To remove the smell of pee in the garden - sprinkle garden or agricultural LIME on the area leave overnight and spray with water until it disappears. Harmless to dogs and cats.

# Exercising Your Dog

## 52) A Tired Dog Is A Good Dog

Give the dog the exercise he needs, and he will spend much of his day resting - not chewing, barking, digging, escaping, or destroying things.

## 53) Dog Sports

Get involved in organized dog sports or informal activities, such as agility, Flyball racing, tug-of-war, fetch, or a fun game of hide-and-seek.

## 54) Walk You Dog

Believe it or not, most dog breeds when loose in a yard seldom get the exercise they need. Most need a walk at least daily, to build strength, burn calories and overcome yard boredom.

## 55) Fun Games To Play With Dogs

All work and no play makes for a dull pooch. So let the games begin!

1. Hide and Seek--Get a friend to distract your dog while you hide in another room. Ask your friend to tell your dog, "Go find!" and reward the pooch with treats and love when he or she finds you.
2. Treasure Hunt--Keep some of your dog's favorite toys out of reach. Hide them (and maybe a few treats) throughout your house and release the hounds.
3. Doggie Playground--Set up a mini-agility course in your back yard with a low hurdle to jump over and some tall sticks in the ground for weave polls.
4. Tunnel Play--Make a tunnel or maze with some old cardboard boxes (wardrobe boxes work well) and encourage your dog to explore.
5. Follow the Leader--Use obstacles and rewards to make it more interesting

## 56) Get Involved in a Dog Activity

Get involved in an activity or sport with you dog and you'll find multiple benefits, the most important being a stronger bond between you and your dog. Your dog will get much needed exercise as well as advanced training that benefits

obedience. And you'll find a hobby or sport that connects you to other dog lovers as well as your dog.

### **57) Backpacking with Your Dog**

Many good-sized dogs enjoy going backpacking with their owners and carry a reasonable load with no problem. There are links to information on this activity and on places to buy equipment.:

### **58) Fly ball is a Lively Sport**

Dogs chasing balls are an age-old sight, but fly ball puts a new twist on it. Competing in teams, dogs must jump low hurdles, push a Fly ball box to release a ball, catch the ball and run to the finish line. A team has four dogs. This novel sport offers opportunities for training and exercise for a dog.

### **59) Dancing with Dogs**

If you want to combine your love of dogs, music, dance and performance, then try a new activity called canine freestyle or musical freestyle. In this sport, you choreograph patterns of movements set to music, much like dancing, for both you and your dog. You'll really build a bond with your dog in this activity!

### **60) Tracking as a Canine Sport**

Many breeds of dogs can learn to track or follow a scent, although it is true that special breeds such as the bloodhound are especially talented in this activity. This ability is also used by hunting dogs following game, rescue dogs finding lost children and police dogs trailing criminal suspects. Some advanced dog degrees include tracking exercises.

### **61) Water Work or Water Trials**

Earth dog trials are for terriers, herding trials for sheepdogs and water work or water trials for dogs that naturally take to water such as Portuguese Water Dogs, Newfoundlands, Leonbergers and others. These sports aim to preserve the special skills of water-oriented breeds.

### **62) Running**

Some larger breeds of dog, like retrievers, may need up to eight miles of walking a day. Start a regular routine of exercising your dog. Try running with him. It's great exercise for the both of you. Smaller dogs like miniatures and chihuahuas need only a 1/2 mile or so of walking a day.

### **63) Take Care**

Have a can of pepper spray with you if you plan on taking walks with your pet. You never know what animal can come out of the blue to attack you and your dog. Some people carry a pooper-scooper for dual purposes.

### **64) Muzzle**

Muzzle if you have more than one dog outside at a time! If you're in a fight situation, never, ever stick your hands in. Get a stick, a bat (big, orange, whiffle ball bat - cut the fat end off ) a water hose, anything. Do not attempt to break up the fight with your hands. Do Not beat your dog.

# Keeping A Healthy Dog

## 65) Normal Dogs

Know what is normal for your dog. If you know what its normal temperature, gum colour, resting respiration and so on are supposed to be, you'll be able to more easily spot when they're not right.

## 66) No Shoulders

Dogs do not have shoulder joints like people and cats do. Their front legs can't go up high, so be careful when you pick up a puppy or small dog, or when you make a dog or puppy stand up.

## 67) Smelly Ears

Does your dog really have doggy odor? That is, even after a bath? What is causing the strong odor just might be an infection in his ears!

## 68) Treating Ear Infections

If your dog is diagnosed with ear mites or an ear infection it is very important to complete treatment. Even if your dog appears recovered, continue medication on the schedule recommended by your veterinarian. Discontinuing medication before completing treatment contributes to the creation of resistant infections. This increases the possibility that the infection will recur and may require stronger medications given for a longer duration.

## 69) Dog Tears

A dog's excess tears can be caused by many things, including blocked tear ducts, abnormal eyelashes, corneal ulcers, a tumor or cyst on the lids or eyes, a foreign object lodged behind the eyelids, dyes in dog food, or dyes in dog bowls. A wet area on the face, no matter what the underlying cause of the wetness, can be a breeding ground for bacteria and yeast. And, bacterial infections commonly occur at the tear ducts, causing excess tears. *Pitirium*, a red yeast bacteria, is at the root of most yeast infections, and a yeast infection is the most common cause of tear stains. Tear stains also often occur at the same time as a gum infection or ear infection. Staining can also occur on a dog's paws from licking and around his mouth from infected saliva.

## 70) Dog Litter

Small dogs have small bladders and this fact sometimes makes housetraining a small dog difficult. If you own a small breed and are having difficulty

housetraining you may want to consider using a dog litter box. Dog litter boxes offer a convenient option for dogs who need a mid-day bathroom break.

### **71) Clean Water**

Whether inside the house or out, your dog must have clean water available at all times. Use a heavy bowl with a wide, flat bottom so your dog can't tip it over.

### **72) Dog Elastic**

Properly hydrated dogs have elastic skin. On a sick dog, pull up a handful of skin on the back of the neck and let go - if it doesn't quickly return to normal, the dog may be dehydrated.

### **73) Teething**

Chewing on rawhide bones helps meet pups' teething needs. They also help remove plaque from teeth and keep them cleaner. This is important because diseases of the mouth can be a real problem after the puppy years.

### **74) Hate Vets?**

For all of you who have dogs that HATE going to the vet. Here is a suggestion to help make your vet-visits a pleasant experience. For any dog that is vet-fearful, or for especially shy dogs. Try visiting your vet's office routinely for no reason. Just take your dog in, place them on the scale, sit in the lobby a while, talk to the receptionist, give them a treat, and leave. This type of positive reinforcement works wonders.

### **75) Mugs Game**

A coffee mug is the perfect size for a foot soak.

### **76) Old Socks**

Baby socks to keep pups from licking injured feet. The ones with treads on them give the dog traction on slippery floors.

### **77) Bitter Pill To Swallow**

Giving pills to a dog doesn't have to be a drama. Take the pill in your right hand (if you're right-handed) between first finger and thumb, gently tilt the dog's head back so its nose is up, with your left hand holding the muzzle use the middle finger of the right hand to open the mouth, pop the pill on the tongue as far back as you can see (don't shove down its throat), let the dog close its mouth while still keeping its nose up and gently stroke its throat. Don't let the dog open its mouth right up, but do let it open a bit. Holding the mouth firmly closed or forcing the head too far back just makes it hard for the dog to swallow - he will need to open his mouth slightly, move his tongue and have a relaxed throat and neck to be able to swallow properly.

## 78) How To Give a Quick Checkup

1. Does the hair coat feel greasy? Is the skin color a normal gray-white or is it pink or red with inflammation? Do you see dandruff-like scales of dead skin among the hairs?
2. Use your fingers to brush the hair against the grain. Do you see numerous little black specks? These are usually the excreta of fleas.
3. Now smell your fingers. If the odour they picked up is rancid, rank, or fishy, it's a sign of poor health.
4. As you examine the eyes, check for matter in the corners. Pull down the lower eyelids so you can see the underside. Are the lids red inside or irritated on the edges?
5. Look into the ear holes. Do you see a lot of wax? Do the insides look oily? Sniff to check for offensive odour.
6. Inspect the gums for a red line on the gums along the roots of the teeth. To check the back teeth for that red line, raise the upper lip and push back the corners of the lips at the same time (It is not necessary to open the mouth).
7. Now check the teeth themselves, including the back ones. Are they gleaming white or coated with a brown deposit? Does the breath smell okay or are you overcome by it?
8. Lastly, feel the backbone in the middle of the back and run your fingers back and forth (sideways) over it. Do you feel definite bones there? Is there a prominent ridge sticking up in the middle? If your answers to these questions are yes, your animal is much too thin.

Note: Oily or smelly secretions on the skin, ears or eyes or deposits on the teeth are sign that the body is struggling to eliminate toxins.

## 79) Indoor Hazards

Indoor pets face some problems a number of problems. Long term exposure to wood smoke can cause some respiratory problems especially in cats. Your pets are susceptible to indoor allergens just like people. Also they can get dry itchy skin. Brush them regularly to help loosen dead skin and distribute natural oils. Be sure there are enough essential fatty acids in their diet, a premium pet food can provide this.

## 80) Animal CPR

Take a course in animal CPR. It may save your dog's life.

## 81) Emergency First Aid Tips for Dogs

In an emergency, keep a level head and quickly get your dog to the veterinarian. Call first. If your vets office is not open, call the nearest emergency pet clinic. Keep emergency phone numbers near your telephone.

Unless you have been trained and are absolutely positive you can administer CPR to your dog, it's best - and safer - to seek immediate veterinary care. However, there are some things you can do to help your dog before you get him to the hospital/clinic as soon as possible:

1. Wrap your dog in a heavy towel or blanket to keep him warm and restrict his movements.
2. Having assistance would be helpful.
3. Apply a pressure bandage (sterile gauze or a clean handkerchief) to stem or stop the bleeding of a cut or bite.
4. Apply cold compress to a burn and gently hold it there until you get to the veterinary clinic.
5. Do not induce vomiting if you suspect or know your dog has swallowed a poisonous substance.
6. At any sign of choking (drooling, difficulty swallowing, pawing at the mouth, gagging), do not attempt to remove the item.

If your dog suffers heatstroke, take him to a cool spot and sponge him with cold water. Encourage your dog to drink small amounts of water.

If your dog suffers frostbite, place him in a warm room immediately. Thaw out the frostbitten areas slowly by applying warm moist towels that are changed frequently until the area becomes flushed. Severe frostbite can result in damaged paws and ear tips, so it is best to let your veterinarian determine the extent of the damage as soon as possible.

## 82) Bones

Bones from cooked meat, include those from steak, veal, pork, turkey or chicken, as well as ribs, can be hazardous to your dog and are not recommended.

### **83) Chocolate**

Chocolate contains an element which is toxic to dogs, called Theobromine. Even an ounce or two of chocolate can be lethal to a small dog (10 lbs. or less). Larger quantities of chocolate can poison or even kill a medium or large dog. Dark and unsweetened baking chocolates are especially dangerous. Symptoms of chocolate poisoning include: vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, hyperactivity and seizures. During many holidays such as Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter and Halloween, chocolate is often accessible to curious dogs, and in some cases, people unwittingly poison their dogs by offering them chocolate as a treat.

### **84) Ice And Snow**

Ice and Snow can accumulate in the fur between toes and pads. This can be uncomfortable or cause your pooch to chew. Trimming may help, as well as keeping nails trimmed. Pay attention to the pads by inspecting them. Be sure not to pull out the fur if you help remove the ice. The AKC suggests you "Towel or blow-dry your dog if he gets wet from rain or snow. It is important to dry and clean his paws, too. This helps avoid tiny cuts and cracked pads. (A little petroleum jelly may soften the pads and prevent further cracking.)" Towel or blow drying is recommended (be careful a blow drier is not set on a high temperature to avoid burns). Make sure you pay attention to the feet and pads.

### **85) It's Chilly Outside**

And while dogs have fur coats, they're still vulnerable to wind and water. If your pet lives outdoors, provide a fully sheltered area with dry bedding. But if the wind chill dips to zero, bring them inside. And watch for frostbite. Dogs can get frostbite, especially on exposed mucus membranes or the tips of their ears. Their feet also are vulnerable to ice and snow which can cause painful balls of snow between the toes. Trim the hair short to prevent matting.

### **86) Clearing The Road**

Salts and other chemicals used to clear driveways and sidewalks also can irritate pet's feet. You should wipe your pets' feet off and check the labels to make sure they are animal safe.

### **87) Hypothermia**

When a dog's internal temperature drops below 96 degrees F (by being exposed to cold weather for long periods, or getting both wet and cold), there is a serious risk to the dog's safety. Small and short-haired dogs should wear sweaters when taken for walks during cold winter weather. Any sign that a dog is very cold -- such as shivering -- should signal the owner to bring the dog indoors immediately.

### **88) Frostbite**

If your dog suffers frostbite, place him in a warm room immediately. Thaw out the frostbitten areas slowly by applying warm moist towels that are changed frequently until the area becomes flushed. Severe frostbite can result in damaged paws and ear tips, so it is best to let your veterinarian determine the extent of the damage as soon as possible.

### **89) Heatstroke and Heat Exhaustion**

A dog's normal internal body temperature is between 100.5 degrees F and 102 degrees F. Leaving a dog in a parked car in the summer (even with the window a few inches open), can cause heatstroke within minutes. Heat exhaustion is usually caused by over-exercising a dog during hot weather. Both heatstroke and heat exhaustion can result in brain damage, heart failure or even death in a short period of time. To cool off an overheated dog, wet the dog's body and paws with cool water, then fan. If the dog experiences heatstroke or heat exhaustion, he should receive veterinary attention as soon as possible.

### **90) Heatstroke**

If your dog suffers heatstroke, take him to a cool spot and sponge him with cold water. Encourage your dog to drink small amounts of water.

### **91) Open Windows, Fire Escapes and Rooftops**

During hot weather, many people leave a few windows open in their home to help create a nice cool cross-breeze. If you have a dog or cat at home, be certain to install secure window screens (or safety bars) in any of the windows which will be left open, as many companion animals fall out of windows, and fire-escapes every year and are often seriously injured or killed. Also, if you allow your dog access to your building's rooftop, make sure the sidewalls which enclose the rooftop are high enough to prevent your dog from being able to fall or jump off, and make sure that you accompany him.

### **92) Swimming Pools**

Each year, puppies, dogs and small children accidentally drown in backyard swimming pools when left unattended. To help prevent such a tragedy, always keep fenced-in pools locked securely when not being used, and keep companion animals and small children away from unenclosed and unoccupied pools.

### **93) It's Toxic**

Many human type drugs can be toxic to dogs. It may surprise you that many people feel that if a human can take a drug, then so can a dog. On the reverse side of that, we know people who have borrowed their dog's prescription. Treat drugs as though you are watching out for a small baby. Dogs will get into things out of curiosity - keep drugs out of reach.

## 94) Poisonous Plants -- Partial List

### A

Acocanthera -- Fruit and Flowers  
Amanita Mushroom  
Amaryllis -- bulbs  
Amsinckia/Tarweed -- Foliage, Seeds  
Anemone  
Angel Trumpet Tree -- Flowers and Leaves  
Apple Seeds  
Apricot Pits & Seed Kernal  
Atropa Belladonna  
Airplane Plant  
Avocado Leaves  
Azalea

### C

Caladium  
Calla Lily  
Cardinal Flower  
Carolina Jessamine  
Cassava -- Roots  
Castor Bean -- Leaves, Bean  
Chalice vine / Trumpet vine  
Cherry Tree -- Everything Except Fruit  
Cherry Laurel  
Chinaberry Tree -- Berries  
Christmas Berry -- Berries  
Christmast Cactus -- Sap  
Christmas Candle  
Christmas Rose  
Christmas Tree -- Needles, Tree Water  
Common Prive  
Columbine  
Coral plant  
Corn Cockle  
Crocus (Autumn) -- Bulbs  
Crocus -- Bulbs  
Croton  
Cyclamen

### B

Balsam Pear -- Seeds, Outer Rind of Fruit  
Baneberry  
Beach Pea  
Betel Nut Palm  
Belladonna  
Bird Of Paradise -- Seeds  
Bittersweet -- Berries  
Black-Eyed Susan  
Black Locust  
Bladder Pod  
Bloodroot  
Bottlebrush -- Flowers  
Boxwood Bleeding Heart  
Boxwood Tree  
Bluebonnet  
Buckthorn -- Fruit, Bark  
Buttercup -- Sap, Bulbs

### D

Daffodil  
Daphne -- Berries  
Datura / Jimsonweed  
Deadly Amanita  
Deadly Nightshade  
Death Camas  
Death Cap Mushroom  
Deiffenbachia / Dumb Cane  
Destroying Angel / Death Cap  
Diffenbachia  
Dragon Tree  
Dutchman's Breeches  
Dogwood -- Fruit

## E

Eggplant -- Foliage  
Elderberry -- Foliage  
Elephant's Ear / Taro -- Foliage  
English Holly Berries  
English Ivy  
Equisetum  
Euphorbia / Spurges

## G

Gelsemium  
Ghostweed / Snow On The Mountain  
Golden chain / Laburnum

## J, K

Jack-In-The-Pulpit / Indian Turnip  
Jasmine  
Jasmine Star  
Jatropha -- Seeds, Sap  
Java bean -- Uncooked Bean  
Jerusalem Cherry -- Berries  
Jessamine -- Berries  
Jimsonweed  
Johnson Grass  
Juniper -- Needles, Stems and Berries

## M

Machineel  
Mayapple -- All parts, except fruit  
Mescal Bean  
Milk Vetch  
Milkweeds -- Foliage  
Mistletoe Berries  
Moccasin Flower  
Mock orange -- Fruit  
Monkshood  
Morning glory  
Mother-In-Law's Tongue

## F

False Hellebore  
False Henbane  
Fiddleneck / Senecio  
Fly Agaric / Amanita  
Four O'Clock  
Foxglove

## H, I

Holly Berries (English and American)  
Horsechestnut  
Horsetail Reed / Equisetum Hyacinth -- Bulbs  
Hydrangea -- Flower Buds  
Iris -- Bulb  
Ivy

## L

Laburnum  
Lambkill / Sheep laurel  
Lantana  
Larkspur  
Laurel  
Lobelia  
Locoweed  
Lords and Ladies / Cuckoopint  
Lily of the Valley -- All parts of the plant, as well as vase water

## N, O

Narcissus -- Bulbs  
Narcissus Jonquilla  
Natal Cherry  
Nicotine Bush  
Nightshades  
Oak -- Acorns, Leaves  
Oleander (very poisonous)

Mountain Laurel  
Mushrooms (many wild forms)

### P, Q

Peach -- Pit  
Pear Seeds  
Pennyroyal -- Foliage & Flowers  
Peony  
Periwinkle  
Philodendron  
Pikeweed  
Pine Needles  
Poison Hemlock  
Poison Ivy  
Poison Oak  
Poison Sumac  
Pokeweed  
Pokewood / Poke cherry -- Roots,  
Fruit  
Poppy  
Potato plant -- New shoots and Eyes  
Privet Shrub

### T

Tansy -- Foliage, Flowers  
Tarweed  
Thornapple  
Tiger Lily  
Toad flax -- Foliage  
Tobacco Leaves  
Tomato Plant -- All parts, except for  
fruit  
Touch-Me-Not  
Toyon Berry -- Berries  
Trillium -- Foliage  
Trumpet Vine  
Tulips

### R, S

Rattlebox  
Rhododendron  
Rhubarb Plants  
Rosary Peas -- Pods, Seeds, Flowers  
Russian Thistle  
Sago Palm  
Salmonberry  
Scarlet Pimpernel  
Senecio / Fiddleneck  
Skunk Cabbage  
Snapdragon  
Snowdrop  
Spanish Bayonet  
Spider Plant  
Star Of Bethlehem  
Sudan Grass  
Sundew

### U, V, W, X, Y, Z

Venus Flytrap  
Verbena  
Virginia Creeper -- Sap  
Tobacco Plants  
Water Hemlock  
Wildflower  
Wild Parsnip -- Roots, Foliage  
Wisteria  
Yellow Jessamine  
Yellow Star Thistle  
Yew (American, English and Japanese)

Veterinary treatment should be immediate if poisoning is suspected.  
National Animal Poison Control Center run by the American Society for  
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, There is a \$30 fee for a consultation. 1-800-  
548-2423 or 1-900-680-000

### **95) Comfort Food**

When having to do something uncomfortable to your dogs (clean ears, put in eye drops, doctor foot), smear some peanut butter on the roof of their mouth. It's pleasurable and really distracts them.

# Feeding Your Dog

## 96) No more free lunch.

Dogs are happiest when they're exercising their predator skills, so make them work for their food, like stuffing it inside chew toys, hiding it around the house, or teaching them tricks for food rewards.

## 97) Regular Feeding Times

Set specific feeding times for your canine companion, 3 times a day for puppies and 1-2 times a day for adult dogs. It will help your dog become a regular eater and make dog care a normal part of your routine.

## 98) Don't Overfeed Large Breed Puppies

It is important to avoid overfeeding puppies, especially of the large breeds such as Great Danes, Irish Wolfhounds, Alaskan Malamutes and more. Large breeds are already at risk of skeletal diseases such as hip dysplasia, and overfeeding and excess weight appear to increase the stress on the skeletal system.

## 99) Maintain Body Condition

To maintain your dog in correct body condition -- not underweight or overweight - it is recommended that dog owners do a body condition evaluation. Do this for puppies once every two weeks and adult dogs once a month. Use your hands to feel a dog's sides. In a dog in ideal weight, the ribs can be felt but not too easily, the dog's waist can be seen when reviewed from above but it's not prominent, and a slight abdominal tuck or tuck up can be seen.

## 100) Feed Correctly, Avoid Obesity

Puppies should not be allowed to become overweight as that may dispose them to obesity as adults. Obesity, the No. 1 nutritional disorder in dogs, can lead to problems such as diabetes and hypertension. If a puppy appears to be gaining excess weight, reduce the amount of food offered. Remember to split a young puppy's food into three smaller meals a day.

## 101) Avoid Table Scraps

Don't routinely give your dog table scraps as this upsets their nutritional balance, and teaches them very bad habits – nobody likes a drooling dog while they are eating.. Your best bet, unless you educate yourself in depth about dogs' nutritional needs, is to stick with dog food. Treats are for learning tricks!

### **102) Beef Liver Treat**

Beef liver treats are easy to make and can be stored in small bags in the freezer for convenience. Boil a beef liver with a generous dash of garlic powder (not garlic salt) until cooked through. Next place the liver on a cookie sheet and bake in 200 degree oven until dry. Cool and cut into small pieces. These treats work great in training!

### **103) Feeding Two Dogs**

Feeding two pet dogs demands care and attention on your part. First, you need to be present while the dogs eat; otherwise, the dominant dog may eat the food of the more submissive one and you won't know it at first. Each dog must have it's own bowl and a separate place for the bowl. If the dogs are too competitive, you may have to feed them separately.

### **104) Dogs Eating Grass**

If you catch your dog eating grass, it may be hungry, it may have an upset stomach -- or it may simply like eating grass. Veterinarians have many opinions on why dogs eat grass. Make sure you feed your dog on a regular schedule. If it appears to be eating more grass than normal, you may want to take it to the vet for a check-up. And remember, don't let your dog chew grass right after it has been fertilized or treated with herbicide.

### **105) Obesity**

Many veterinarians believe obesity is the greatest health issue facing our pets. Being overweight can cause unnecessary suffering and shortened lifespan.

Health concerns such as joint or locomotion difficulties, heart and respiratory disease, diabetes, liver disease, heat intolerance, skin problems and gastrointestinal disorder may occur as a result of obesity.

### **106) How to Determine If Your Dog Is Overweight**

Many people don't really know if their pet is overweight until they visit their veterinarian for another reason.

1. Feel the dog's ribs with both hands.
2. Then take a look at him from above and from the side.

For an ideal dog: It is easy to feel the ribs without an excess fat covering. Viewed from the side, the belly is tucked up. Viewed from above, there's a noticeable waist in front of the hips.

### **107) Cat Food**

If you run out of dog food, cat food will do in a pinch. And, it contains even more vitamins and minerals than dog food.

### **108) Tempting A Dog Not Eating**

Because of its strong scent, cat food will often tempt a dog that won't eat. Equally, bathe to clear a crusty blocked-up nose, since a dog may not eat what it can't smell.

### **109) Palatable Food**

Warm water added to food makes it more palatable. It's especially useful to warm tinned food kept in the fridge.

### **110) Bolting Rocks**

If your dog bolts his/her food too fast, put a rounded rock about the size of a baseball (cleaned) or a kong toy or coffee cup in the bowl. Make sure its large enough that the dog won't eat it, but small enough that they can eat around it. Working to eat the food around the rock will keep them from gulping the food.

# Grooming You Dog

## 111) Brushing and Washing

Is your dog clean? Brush your dog daily to remove dirt and tangles. And, depending on the breed, some dogs may need to be bathed once a month.

## 112) Brush your Dog Correctly

How many times have you told your groomer that you brush your dog all the time -- only to find his coat's still matted? You may not be brushing effectively! First, teach the dog to lie on his side for grooming. Brush in layers starting at the feet/belly and work up toward the spine. After you think you've got it all brushed, go back with a metal comb and comb through to check your work! Any knots will show themselves with the comb! Also the sound of the brush going through the coat will tell you if there are knots! The sound of the brush going through the coat will be harsher when matting is present.

## 113) Grooming for Relaxation & Health

Grooming is an excellent way to strengthen the bond between yourself and your dog. At the end of the day grab a slicker instead of the remote and get down on your dog's level to enjoy some one on one time. Even dogs who are nervous about grooming will quickly relax and become accustomed to some hands on attention. Gentle brushing a few times a week helps to reduce shedding, is great for all coat types and makes it easier for owners to detect lumps and other skin conditions early.

## 114) Brush before Bathing

Remember to brush your dog's coat before giving it a bath. Wet dog fur mats or tangles more than dry fur, making it harder to brush the dog after the bath.

## 115) Bathing your Dog

Veterinary dermatologists or skin care specialists say you can bathe your dog once a week as long as you are using shampoo specifically formulated for dog's skin and fur.

## 116) Beat Matted coats - Using Cream Rinse

Instead of hacking or clipping a hunk of hair off to remove a mat, try rubbing cream rinse into the mat and work through it with a comb or mat breaker. Dab a little water onto it as you work.

### **117) Nail Trimming**

When trimming your dog's nails yourself, you can cause a lot of bleeding and pain if you cut the quick. The quick is easy to see in a clear or white nail - it is the pink part inside the nail. Be sure to cut below this area. If some of his nails are white and others are black, you should feel safe to cut the black nail about the same amount as you did the white nail- if in doubt be sure to take him to the vets.

### **118) Nail Trimming Accidents**

Its very easy to accidentally clip into the quick when trimming a dog's nails, especially when the nails are dark. If you cut into the quick its a good idea to use some styptic powder, which will aid in clotting. Dip your finger into the powder and gently dab it onto the tip of the nail. Styptic powder can be obtained at most pet stores in the grooming section. If you are caught without any powder you can try using a little cornstarch or flour in the same manner.

### **119) Ear Care**

Learn about the ear care needed for your particular breed of dog. Dogs with flop ears are more prone to ear infections, for example, while dogs with lots of hair inside their ears tend to retain dirt and wax. Learn to watch for problems and do ear cleaning the correct way.

# Dogs & Children

## 120) Keep Kids Safe around Dogs

To keep your children safe with dogs, teach them not to startle a sleeping dog or try to take away a dog's toy or bother a dog when it's eating. Teach them to respect dogs.

## 121) Keep Dogs Safe around Kids

Teach Your Child To Respect Your Dog's Space Teach your child never to disturb a dog who has taken shelter in his kennel, corner or favourite hideout. Respect his privacy.

## 122) Don't Chain Your Dog Outside And Leave Him Unattended

A dog tied for long periods tends to get irritable and foul tempered. Add to that the high pitched screams of excited children playing, and you have a potentially dangerous situation. The dog interprets children's excited screams as a distress signal of a prey animal, and reacts by attacking the 'prey'.

## 123) Do Not Leave An Infant Alone with a dog

While dogs have been known to be protective towards babies, it is not advisable to take a chance. Never leave an infant alone with a dog.

## 124) Teach Your Child How To Deal With Dogs

Children must be taught not to approach a dog that has not been befriended. They must learn not to antagonise a dog by making loud noises or threatening gestures. If the child is afraid of dogs teach her not to suddenly flee at the sight of a dog, as even this can trigger the chase instinct of the dog. Once the chase instinct comes into play, a dog cannot help but attack what he sees as 'prey'.

1. Don't allow children near the dog when he's eating or chewing on a bone.
2. Don't allow the dog in the children's bedrooms.
3. Don't allow unsupervised play without an adult present. This should be continued for a few weeks.
4. Teach the children to remain calm in the dog's presence. An excited child often results in an excited dog!

5. Any child visitors to the home must be introduced slowly, without loud voices or sudden movements toward the dog. An adult should be present for the duration of the visit, or chain the dog outside or in a pen. This also should continue for a few weeks until the dog's personality after an adjustment period has been observed.
6. Make certain the dog is neutered--and the younger the better! This affects their temperament, and a neutered dog is far less likely to be a vicious dog.
7. With an adult present, spend lots of time petting the dog on the head, face, and mouth. This teaches the dog that the mouth is not just for biting and eating, and also helps him to be more affectionate.
8. Establish a fairly set routine as to when the dog is walked, fed, and let outside to be tied to a lead. As with children, dogs also respond well to structure.

### **125) Your Dog And Your New Baby**

1. Gradually introduce changes in your dog's routine as soon as you know a baby is on the way - if he does not connect them with the baby's arrival he has less reason to be jealous:
  - (a) Your dog should not be the centre of attention at all times, and should sit on your lap (if at all) only when invited by you.
  - (b) Get him used to being away from you sometimes in another room, or indoor kennel ("crate"), and ban him from the nursery.
  - (c) Take a refresher course at a training school, and think about practice walks with the pram - it can be trickier than it sounds!
  - (d) Check with your vet about canine hygiene and worming.
2. When your baby is born your dog may be left for hours while you are in hospital, or upset by the excitement if you are at home. Arrange for someone he knows to look after/walk him.
3. Old wives tales (letting your dog drink breast milk or play with dirty nappies) don't help your dog and baby to become friends, but sending home a blanket that the baby has slept on may help your dog to get used to her scent.

4. When you come home let someone else hold your baby while you greet your dog; introduce them later when he is calm.
5. Don't try to keep your dog and baby completely apart - you won't be able to keep it up! Teach them both to interact calmly and gently, no licking by the dog or grabbing by the child.
6. NEVER EVER leave dogs alone with babies or young children; shut your dog out of the room or pop the baby in a secure play-pen. This applies every time you use the bathroom, answer the door/phone or get a meal. It is NOT a matter of "trust". Toddlers can accidentally injure or alarm dogs (e.g. by falling on them) and startled dogs may react impulsively, lashing out or biting.
7. Your dog may have to wait in the queue for love but he still needs you. Always having the baby nearby when giving him attention encourages your dog to like having her around.
8. The most tolerant dog needs peace and quiet sometimes; allow him a place (e.g. his bed) he can "escape" to without being followed. Allow the child to go there at other times to prevent it becoming an exclusive area which he feels entitled to defend.
9. When your baby starts to crawl and walk teach your dog to step back out of her way in doorways and on stairs.

### **126) Older Children And Dogs**

10. The same rules apply, especially the ones about mutual respect and supervision. Stress that dogs are not living toys, especially when bringing a puppy into a family where children already live.
11. Don't allow children (or anyone else!) to feed your dog from the table; suitable leftovers can be mixed into his meal afterwards.
12. It is particularly important to "clear up" after your dog in the garden when your child becomes old enough to play there.
13. Keep your dog out of the way when your children have friends round or are playing energetic games. Remember your child's friends may not know the best way to interact with dogs.

14. It's fun for your child to fuss and play with your dog, but teach games where you keep control, and always supervise. Older children should help feed, groom and train your pet so that they learn about the responsibilities as well as the fun of pets. Make sure your child always washes her hands afterwards.

15. Children love to hold the lead, but don't allow them to walk your dog alone. They may be able to manage your well behaved pet, but how would they cope if he was attacked by a large stray?

16. Show children the correct way to befriend other people's dogs - ask the owner first, then offer a hand for the dog to sniff from below his nose before you pat him.

17. Not all dogs are friendly. Your child should not approach strays and must never go with strangers to see "the puppies at home"

### **127) Visits from other people's children**

Again the general rules apply, but (however much he loves them) your dog's "level of tolerance" will be lower if he does not live with children all the time. Children and dogs must learn together (from you) how to get along. If it all gets too much, he may appreciate some time in his indoor kennel or another room.

### **128) The Child Must Never Hold A Dog's Gaze**

Dogs rarely see children as senior members of the 'pack'. When a child stares steadily into a dog's eyes, the dog sees it as a threatening gesture. Make sure your child knows this.

### **129) Socialise Your Dog**

It is your responsibility to socialise your puppy to kids. If you are buying your pup from a breeder, make sure the puppy has been exposed to children. You can begin socialising your dog by first taking him for walks (leashed) in a park where children come to play.

### **130) No Tug-of-war**

Do not encourage your dog to play tug-of-war with your child over a toy, teddy, cushion or leash. This may make the dog aggressive, and make it compete with the child over little items.

# Getting A Puppy

## 131) 4 Questions To Ask Yourself BEFORE Buying A Puppy

Before buying a puppy or adopting an adult dog, ask yourself these important questions:

1. How much time can I spend with my dog, a social creature who craves companionship?
2. How much exercise can I give my dog, an active animal that loves to run and romp.
3. How much grooming can I do? If little, I should consider a short-coated dog.
4. How much training can I give? If you have limited time, choose a breed known for ease of training.

## 132) Your Circumstances

When choosing a dog breed relate to your own circumstances. These include your health including possible allergies, your financial resources, and the amount of space in your house and yard to share with your dog. Choose a dog to match your resources.

## 133) You Experience And Attitudes

Some factors to consider when choosing a dog breed relate, to your dog attitudes and history, including your previous experience owning a dog, your goals for your relationship with your dog, and the amount of time you have for training, grooming and exercising your dog. Choose a breed to match these factors.

## 134) Breed Characteristics

When choosing a breed relate very directly to the characteristics of the breeds themselves. What is best for your situation: large or small, male or female, purebred or mix? Short coat or shaggy coat? A dog needing lots or little exercise? A lot or little daily grooming? Think through your choices in good detail.

### **135) Relationships**

Of all the different factors in choosing a dog breed, among the most important is the relationship you want with your dog. Some breeds by nature are rather aloof and elegant, others are independent and energetic while others are dependent and submissive. If you want to do specialized training, consider breeds known for courage and trainability. If you want an affectionate pet, choose a breed that typically likes to be close to its people.

### **136) Avoid Movies Star Dogs**

Dogs in movies will likely capture your heart, whether Lassie, Rin Tin Tin or 101 Dalmatians. Still, you don't want to give in to your kids when they beg you to get a puppy or dog just like the one they saw in the movie. Learn about these and other breeds before you choose one. Your family will be happier for your extra care.

Visit My Site: [www.canineloft.com](http://www.canineloft.com) 'Avoid Movie Star Breeds' Questions?

### **137) Match Your Dog & Lifestyle**

Choose a breed to fit your life. If you hate grooming, buy a short-haired dog. If you hate exercise, buy a small dog happy with a short walk. If you love skiing, buy an Arctic breed and learn to skijor. These are just a few examples of how you can be happier with the breed you choose.

Visit My Site: [www.canineloft.com](http://www.canineloft.com) 'Match Your Dog & Lifestyle' Questions?

### **138) Ask People You Trust about Breeds**

Ask friends, family members and co-workers you trust for suggestions of dog breeds they think would be good for you and your family. Ask them to be honest about the good points and bad points of the breeds they suggest. Follow up on the breeds you feel are a good match.

### **139) How Old a Puppy Should I Buy?**

For a pet puppy, new owners are advised to bring the pup home between 8 and 12 weeks old. However, if you are buying a show quality pup, you might want to wait until the dog is as old as eight months, so you can see how it is developing before you buy it. Of course, that required the breeder to be willing to wait that long.

Visit My Site: [www.canineloft.com](http://www.canineloft.com) 'How Old a Puppy Should I Buy?' Questions?

### **140) Contacting a Breeder**

The Internet is a great way to locate breeders anywhere in the world. Try to find a breeder near enough to visit, because its always best to rely on your own first hand experience. If you can not locate a breeder near enough to visit you need to request references, one being a veterinarian, and make sure to call them.

### **141) Puppy Mills**

Although most pet stores insist that their puppies come from reputable breeders, this is totally false. No caring breeder would ever sell puppies to a pet store. Pet store puppies ALL come from puppy mills!

### **142) Avoiding pet stores**

Due to the fact that pet store puppies come indirectly from puppy mills, genetic problems can be prevalent.

Visit My Site: [www.canineloft.com](http://www.canineloft.com) 'Avoiding pet stores' Questions?

### **143) Puppy brokers**

Pet stores purchase all of their puppies from brokers. Most brokers buy puppies directly from puppy mills.

### **144) Ask your Breeder**

When you are purchasing a purebred dog, make sure to ask the breeder if he or she will be available by e-mail or phone to answer your questions. They know their bloodlines, the possible health problems of their line, and ideas on breeding that line. Choose a breeder who states positively that you can call or write for information and answers, and then use this valuable resource.

### **145) Check For Genetic Problems**

If you are buying a purebred dog, ask the breeder if he or she has the sire and dam checked for genetic problems before breeding the pair. If the answer is no, you very likely will want to seek out another breeder. This is especially important if the breed in question is prone to genetic problems.

### **146) Genetic Diseases**

When buying a puppy, be sure to ask the breeder if the sire and dam have shown any evidence of genetic problems such as hip dysplasia, eye problems, seizures or thyroid dysfunction. Ask if dogs behind the sire and dam have had these problems. If they have, you'll want to look elsewhere for your puppy.

### **147) Ask To See The Dam And Sire**

When purchasing a puppy, always ask to see the dam, the sire if possible, and the whole litter of puppies. This will give you some insights on the temperament of the pup's parents, brothers and sisters and thus on the puppy itself.

Visit My Site: [www.canineloft.com](http://www.canineloft.com) 'Ask the Breeder No. 3' Questions?

### **148) Purchasing a Puppy**

A breeder, should always tell those who have purchased a puppy or even an adult, that, if for some reason the relationship does not work out, return the

animal and they will refund the purchase price. sure they are told what, if. Make sure you are satisfied with the policy. If not, choose another breeder.

### **149) Breeds for Allergy Sufferers**

Good breeds for allergy sufferers do exist. Those who know about this issue include the American Hairless, the Basenji, the Bedlington terrier, and the poodles on their list to consider.

### **150) Browsing for Dog Breeds A to Z**

One good way to develop a familiarity with the many different dog breeds is to simply browse through an alphabetical listing of breeds. Click on the names of those that interest you to learn more about their characteristics.

### **151) Contacting Shelters/Rescues**

You should be able to find contact information for local animal shelters and Humane Societies in your yellow pages. Even if you are looking for a particular breed, be sure to give the shelters a call, you might get lucky and save a dog from death row.

### **152) Concerns About Rescue Dog Behavior**

If you are interested in adopting a dog at your local shelter or rescue, you should feel free to ask questions of the staff about concerns over possible behavior problems. Ask about the reason(s) for surrender, and talk to the people who care for the dog on a daily basis to find out how the dog behaves for them. Also, spending some time with the dog will allow time to get acquainted and the dog may begin to open up and give you a better idea of his personality.

### **153) Adoption Saves Lives**

If you've done your research and decided on a specific breed, adoption through a breed rescue or local shelter is a great way to give a dog a second chance. Dogs found through rescue groups have often already started learning the basics of house training and obedience. In many cases the biggest problem these dogs exhibit is extremely bad luck.

### **154) Bring the Necessary Documents**

Before heading to an animal shelter to adopt a dog, call and ask what you need to bring with you, in case you find the very dog you want on the first visit. You may need personal identification, a permission letter from your landlord, as well as a means of payment. You will likely have to fill out an application form as well.

### **155) Make It a Family Decision**

Make every effort when adopting a dog to make the choice of a dog a family decision. A dog will be part of the family, and each member needs to feel a sense of ownership for the dog and a willingness to help in its care.

### **156) Train Your Adopted Dog**

Even if your adopted older dog has basic obedience training including sit, stay and heel, consider enrolling together in an obedience class. You and the dog will build a closer bond, valuable as the dog switches its allegiance to you, its new master.

### **157) Be Patient in Adopting**

While we're used to deciding to make a purchase and then making the purchase right away, that might not work in adopting a dog. Be patient and visit a shelter several times if necessary to find the right dog for your situation. A dog's personality, activity level, size and much more should be taken into consideration before you adopt.

### **158) Ask Shelter Staff Questions**

Don't be shy about asking the staff at the animal shelter lots of questions about the dogs they have available. What personalities do the dogs have? Which ones are noisy or quiet? Which ones are bold or shy? What about their health? The staff has had a chance to observe the dogs and can provide you lots of help- they want to make sure you make the right choice too.

### **159) Handle Your Puppy**

If you have a puppy, handle him endlessly. And make it as pleasant an experience as possible, so he'll associate being handled with good feelings.

### **160) Puppy Toys**

Before bringing a new puppy home, obtain puppy chew toys. Hard rubber toys are considered the best. Avoid non-dog toys that may have chemicals or may rip into pieces that may choke a puppy.

### **161) Cuddles**

When you bring a new puppy home, provide a stuffed toy to give the pup something to cuddle with. There will be much less whining that first night home away from his siblings.

### **162) Tick Tock**

A ticking clock by your puppies bed will remind him of his Mum and help to make him feel safe.

### **163) Peace And Quiet**

Bring your puppy home when there's not a lot of people around and let him get settled in.

### **164) Routines**

A new puppy or dog will settle into your home more readily if you establish routines for feeding, time to out, walking, sleeping and playing. It need not be rigid, but your dog will come to expect activities based on the pattern you create.

### **165) No Mess**

When you get home from work or wherever you were for the day, be sure to praise the dog if he did not make a mess. Make sure that the dog knows that you are proud of him. Give the darling a treat even! By using this positive reinforcement, you can insure that this will be a much more frequent occurrence.

### **166) Ignore Mess**

If your puppy does pee or poop where you don't want him to, quietly clean it up in a matter-of-fact way. This isn't a time to talk either loving or annoyed talk to him; essentially ignore him while you do the cleanup.

# When Your Dog Gets Old

## 167) Sudden Accidents in Older Dogs

If your housetrained dog suddenly begins urinating on the floor or, worse yet, on your bed she may be trying to tell you something. She could have a painful infection, or other physical ailment, making it difficult for her to control her bladder. Please make an appointment to see your veterinarian as soon as possible to rule out any physiological cause for the problem.

## 168) Changes In Behavior While Aging

Your aging pet may develop new habits or exhibit odd behavior. Consult your veterinarian. Your pet may be experiencing a change in sight, sound or pain from physiological changes. (For example, staring at walls as if disoriented, house soiling, increased barking or crying, irritability)

## 169) Walking the Older Dog

Older dogs can still enjoy brisk walks. It is generally recommended that the walks have 4 parts -- a short, slow-paced warm-up; a brisk walk for up to 20 minutes; a short, slow cool-down period; and then a drink of water.

## 170) Geriatric Screening

Dogs approaching "senior status" should receive a geriatric exam from a veterinarian. Small dogs tend to reach this status about 9 to 11 years of age, while big dogs of 50-80 pounds should have this exam as early as 6 to 8 years old.

Visit My Site: [www.canineloft.com](http://www.canineloft.com) 'Geriatric Screening' Questions?

## 171) Care for Older Dogs

Remember that older dogs have special health and care needs. Please make sure that you have them vet checked yearly. They can still be happy, healthy and playful.

Visit My Site: [www.canineloft.com](http://www.canineloft.com) 'Care for Older Dogs' Questions?

## 172) Exercise for Older Dogs

Most old dogs won't admit that they're feeling their age and will try to work just as hard to please you as they did back in the "good old days." It will be up to you to see that your old timer takes it easy. Old dogs should have exercise, but slow it down. Give him enough work to keep him fit, but don't work him to the point of exhaustion.

## 173) The Ten Most Important Tips for Keeping Your Older Dog Healthy

1. Establish a relationship with the best veterinarian you can find. For most older dogs, it is advisable to make an appointment with the vet every six months. Your vet should be someone whom you trust and with whom you feel very comfortable.
2. Become informed about the conditions common to older dogs and the therapies used for them. Be alert to symptoms, bring them to your vet's attention promptly, and be prepared to discuss treatment options.
3. Feed your older dog the best food you can afford; consider feeding him a home-prepared diet and two small meals daily rather than one large one.
4. Don't overfeed your dog. Obesity will create health problems and shorten his life.
5. Consider the use of dietary supplements such as glucosamine/chondroitin for arthritis.
6. Give your senior dog adequate exercise, but adjust it to her changing abilities.
7. Attend to your dog's dental health. Brush her teeth daily and have them cleaned professionally whenever your vet advises it.
8. Have your dog vaccinated and checked regularly by your vet.
9. Be diligent in controlling fleas and ticks, and keep your dog and his environment scrupulously clean.
10. Make your senior dog as much a part of your life as possible, and do all you can to keep him interested, active, happy and comfortable.

## 174) Common Conditions

Here are some common conditions that affect seniors. If your pet exhibits any of these physical or behavioral signs, consult your veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Apparent Signs</b>
Kidney disease	<b>INCREASED THIRST AND WATER INTAKE, INCREASED URINATION AND ACCIDENTS; WEIGHT, MUSCLE AND APPETITE LOSS; LETHARGY AND ANEMIA; ROUGH COAT; VOMITING; BAD BREATH</b>
Diabetes	Increased food and water intake; increased urination.
Gastrointestinal disorders	Vomiting, flatulence, diarrhea, vigorous straining to produce little or no stool.
Arthritis	Stiffness, reluctance to walk, climb stairs, jump or play; limping; difficulty rising from a resting position; lagging behind on walks; behavior changes, irritability.
Hearing loss	Sleeping more soundly, apparent lack of awareness of loud noises; no response to calls; increased vocalization.
Cataracts and vision loss	Bumping into furniture, doors and walls; easily disoriented; cloudy eyes; irritability.
Cushing's disease	Pot-bellied appearance; increased water or food intake; frequent urination; hair loss; muscle weakness; changes in activity level; decreased responsiveness to attention.
Thyroid disease-Hypothyroidism (low)	Reduced activity, weight gain, hair loss, shivering and reduced cold tolerance; possible irritability.
Thyroid disease-Hyperthyroidism (high)	Weight loss; increased appetite; diarrhea; vocalization
Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS)	Disorientation (confusion), wandering aimlessly, staring off into space; decreased or altered response to family members; abnormal sleep-wake patterns; loss of housetraining; increased vocalization.
Heart disease	Labored breathing; coughing; sluggishness, fatigue, or lethargy; shortness of breath; poor exercise tolerance; fainting or abdominal fluid.
Periodontal (dental) disease	Bad breath, buildup of plaque on teeth; red, inflamed, sensitive, or bleeding gums; excessive drooling; reluctance to be touched on face or near mouth
Cancer	Unusual growths or abnormal lumps and bumps; sores

Condition	Apparent Signs
	that don't heal; unexplained weight loss; loss of appetite; bleeding or discharge from a body opening; offensive odor; difficulty eating or swallowing; loss of stamina; persistent lameness or stiffness; difficulty breathing, urinating or defecating.
Obesity	Pet weighs more than 15% over ideal weight; joint problems; breathing difficulties.

### 175) You Know Your Old Friend Best

Although your veterinarian is the expert, you are the one who cares for your pet every day and you are more likely to notice subtle changes in your pet's behavior or physical abilities.

If your pet is experiencing one or more of the signs on this checklist, be sure to bring it to your veterinarian's attention. What may look like normal aging could be a manageable condition thanks to advances in animal medicine, nutrition and health care. The best results are achieved when problems are caught and treated early.

Signs	Yes	No
Difficulty jumping up or climbing stairs		
Increased stiffness or limping		
Loss of housetraining		
Increased thirst		
Increased urination		
Changes in activity level; fatigue; sluggishness		
Excessive panting		
Circling/Repetitive movements		
<b>CONFUSION OR DISORIENTATION; STARING OFF INTO SPACE</b>		
Excessive vocalization, especially at night		
Less interaction with family		
Decreased responsiveness		
Tremors or shaking		

<b>Signs</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Skin and haircoat changes; lumps; odor		
Changes in sleeping patterns		
Less enthusiastic greeting or behavior		
Altered appetite		
Weight change		
Bad breath; red gums; difficulty eating; drooling		
Coughing; labored breathing; shortness of breath		
Vomiting; diarrhea; flatulence		
Other changes (list)		

# Travelling With Your Dog

## 176) Cars

Car trips can be hazardous to your pet. How many times have you seen a small dog sitting on the drivers lap, looking out the window? Or the cat lying on the rear shelf on the car? A sudden stop, or even an accident can send your pet flying.

## 177) Do Not Leave You Dog In Your Car

There have been too many incidents of cats and dogs suffering from heatstroke after being left in a hot car. Leave at least two windows (for cross draft) open slightly to provide fresh air. You might consider one of those solar powered fans that fit in the window. The fan fits snugly in the window, the sun powers the fan, and air is circulate within your vehicle. NEVER leave animals in the car in hot climates or during the warmer months, as even a short time in a hot vehicle can be dangerous to your pet., and fortunately, is now illegal in some places.

## 178) Car Windows

Prevent your dog from hanging his head out of a moving car or truck window when taking him for a ride. Bugs, small pebbles and other debri can injure his eyes, and he is also at risk of jumping out of the vehicle. Also, closing automatic car windows while your dog is hanging his head out of the car window can cause him or her serious harm.

## 179) No Loose Pets

A loose pet in a car can also escape if someone opens the door, forgetting that your pet is able to jump out before you can grab him or her, not to mention the danger to the driver. There are special harnesses for dogs like seatbelts, and the cat-carrier can always be used to transport your cat safely. Of course, make sure the carrier is also secured to the back seat with a seatbelt.

## 180) Airplane Travel

To help prevent your dog or cat from overheating when travelling by airplane, avoid transporting your companion animal in the cargo section of the plane during hot weather. (Always take into consideration both the departure and arrival temperatures.) If your must transport you dog or cat in the cargo section, take a direct, early morning or late evening flight whenever possible, as layovers, delayed take-offs, and mid-day travel (when the temperature is hottest) can all pose an increased risk.

### **181) Pickup Trucks**

Never allow your dog to ride in the back of an open pickup truck, unless a padded harness to the center of the pickup “bed” safely secures him with specially designed tethers. (Also, make sure to provide a thick comfortable padded surface or dog bed to prevent any injury or discomfort to your dog's joints.)

### **182) Trains & Busses**

Most travel by trains and buses for a small pet (dog or cat) in a carrier, is usually free. Try to avoid crowded (rush hour) conditions, since the crowds will only make your pet nervous.

### **183) Not Welcome Here!**

Always check to make sure the hotel accepts pets. And check either our on-line advertisements or directly with the hotel, to find out any restrictions, fees, etc.

### **184) Emergency Vet**

Also check the location of Emergency Veterinary Clinics in the area to which you're headed.

### **185) Remember To Jab**

Rabies vaccinations are a must for all travel abroad, and for returning to the United States. Many airlines also require these vaccinations also. Check with your vet for the complete range of vaccinations required, and of course, check with the airline and country to which you're heading.

### **186) Travel Pills**

Many dogs and cats do not travel well in a car. Consider speaking with your vet about tranquilizers. If your pet gets car sick, consider travel-sickness pills. Again, check with your vet for recommendations and dosage – early familiarization and training are essential.

### **187) Distilled Water**

When travelling with your dog, see if you can use distilled water for his/her drinking and mixing the food. Distilled water tends to be the same all over the world. Spring or drinking or filtered water varies from place to place. This will help prevent upset stomachs.

# Lost Your Dog?

## 188) Protect Your Pet from Being Stolen

Whether lost or stolen, losing a pet is a harrowing experience which often leaves owners racked with grief, terror and guilt. There are, however, preventive steps owners can take to help protect their beloved canine companions.

1. Be sure to attach identification and license tags on your puppy or dog's collar or harness. ID tags should include: the word "REWARD" in capital letters on the first line; your address city and state; your home & work phone numbers; and a friend or relative's phone number. (Generally, it is recommended that your dog's name not be included on the ID tag, as it only serves to give a pet thief more control over your dog.)
2. Take some good clear photographs of your puppy every few months through at least one year of age, then once a year thereafter. Besides the fact that photos of your puppy will be treasured for many years to come, a current photo of your pet can be very helpful in his safe recovery should he ever become lost. Remember, black & white photos produce better zeroxes than color photos do.
3. In addition to ID tags, owners should consider having their puppy or dog tattooed and micro-chipped.
4. Never allow your puppy or dog to roam through the neighborhood without you.
5. When allowing your puppy outdoors, whether in an urban or suburban environment, keep your puppy leashed at all times except when safely confined to your fenced-in yard or property, or in a safe, enclosed dog run. Even within the seemingly safe confines of one's own property, do not leave your pet unattended if there is any risk of pet theft. In the large majority of circumstances, owner supervision is strongly recommended.
6. When doubtful about a stranger's intentions, do not offer them any information about your dog, such as his or her name, breed, or what you paid for your dog.
7. Have your dog spayed or neutered to help prevent risky romantic escapades. Altering your pet can reduce the desire to roam and thus add to your pet's safety.

8. Never leave your dog tied unattended in front of a supermarket, store, bank, or restaurant, or leave your pet unsupervised in an automobile. Tying an unsupervised dog (especially in an urban area), can result in your pet being attacked by another dog, or stolen, harassed, or poisoned.
9. Be especially watchful over your pets when it is snowing, foggy or dark outside, as well as whenever travelling or visiting an area unfamiliar to you or your pet. These situations may leave your pet more vulnerable to becoming lost.
10. Before entrusting your dog to a boarding or training kennel or other pet care service or facility, be sure to thoroughly investigate its reputation.
11. Obedience train your dog. A well-trained dog is safer, more responsive and happier.

## 189) What To Do If Your Pet Is Ever Lost Or Stolen

1. Begin the search for your pet immediately. Don't wait a few days hoping he'll return on his own. Begin looking for your dog by circling around your block, then gradually widen the circle to include neighboring areas. Be sure to have a friend or family member wait outside your home in case your dog returns to your building doorstep. Check all local parks, dog runs and any of your dog's favorite places throughout town.
2. Search at any "dog attractive" places such as schools, parks, and garbage dumps. Post flyers in all of those areas.
3. Keep your telephone manned 24 hours a day in case someone calls about your pet. Hopefully your pet's collar has ID tags attached which will make it easier for someone finding your pet to call you.
4. Put together a clear, bold, easy-to-read "lost dog" flyer. The two-line, bold headline should read: REWARD: LOST DOG (or cat). The flyer should also include the following information: your pet's general physical description and temperament; the date and location your pet was lost; two or more telephone numbers where people should call if they find your pet. While your flyer should offer a reward for the safe return of your pet, it should not specify the amount of the reward.
5. To help prevent heartless con artists and cruel pranksters from preying on you, leave one or two physical characteristics of the description you offer off the flyers you post (such as a single white spot on his back left paw). If

a caller claims to have found your pet, ask whether the pet has any special markings, or do the reverse, and ask if the pet possesses any markings or other physical traits that really don't exist. If the caller answers incorrectly, then the call may be a hoax.

6. Ask your neighbors if they have seen the dog.
7. Distribute "Lost Pet" flyers to friends, neighborhood residents, doormen, and businesses. Post flyers on all neighborhood bulletin boards. Flyers should also be handed out and posted throughout the neighborhood where your pet was lost if other than your own. Also put in vets, groomers, shelters, stores, bulletin boards, etc.
8. Contact all of the shelters in your immediate area every day. Your dog may not be picked up on the first day he is lost. Check everyday, even for months. It is possible your pet may have been picked up by someone and later let go.
9. Contact the shelters within a 2-hour drive of your home. Pets can travel long distances. In addition someone who was trying to help your pet could have picked it up in one place and driven somewhere else to turn it in.
10. Contact all the veterinarians, dog groomers, and dog trainers, in your area. Some people may take the dog to a veterinarian to be held until animal control may be called. In addition if someone wants to keep your pet they may try to establish services for the pet under their name.
11. Contact humane societies, veterinary hospitals, and animal control officers immediately. Also. contact your local police, sheriffs, pet supply stores, groomers, boarding kennels, professional dog walkers, dog runs, and dog training schools. After calling these places and people to alert them to your lost pet, mail them "Lost and Found" flyers containing your pet's description and photo. After that, visit these facilities as often as possible, and/or make daily follow up calls to each facility.
12. Contact the all breed rescues in your area. If your dog could possibly be confused as a mixed breed the all breed rescues may have rescued it. EX: If your German Shepherd has a bit of cream or white color in it and doesn't exactly look like the classic GSD someone may feel it is a mixed breed.
13. When contacting rescues, shelters, and veterinarians, check out ANY dog that might be a possible match. Remember, even if your dog had a collar and tags when it disappeared, it may not have that collar any more. If

someone had your dog and tried to get the phone number off of the tags and took the collar off, the dog could have run off again. Also the collar could have slipped off during the dogs travels.

14. Contact the breed specific rescue organizations that service your area. For example: If you have a German Shepherd contact the German Shepherd Rescue. If your pet has been rescued it will be taken to a veterinarian to be spayed/neutered, updated on shots, and placed in foster care until adopted.
15. Contact any agencies, organizations and services that deal with recovering lost pets, such as Petfinders (1-800-666-5778), and Sherlock Bones (see Helplines and Hotlines in the RESOURCES section).
16. Be sure to review the deceased animal pick up log at each shelter, to rule out the death of your pet.
17. Place "Lost Pet" ads (with your pet's photograph if possible) in the 'Lost and Found' and 'Pet' sections of all local newspapers. . Offer a reward if possible.
18. The internet is also a good place to let lots of people know about a lost pet.
19. If your dog is tattooed contact National Dog Registry (800-NDR-DOGS), and Tattoo-A-Pet (718-646-8203).
20. If a caller claiming to have found your pet tells you to meet him at a strange or dangerous location, or to send him money in order to get your puppy back, or should you suspect that the caller is a con artist, agree to do whatever he asks, but call the police (speak to a police detective), your local ASPCA (speak with humane enforcement) and your local animal control of officers immediately. They will set up a sting operation to catch the con artist.

### **190) Makeshift Collar**

If your dog is loose and you haven't a collar and lead ready to hand - Grab the dog gently but firmly by the loose skin at the back of the neck.

### **191) Identification**

Forms of identification for pets include tattoos, ID tags, pictures, and microchip implants with registry. Organizations offer registries with corresponding tag number and a toll free number should your pet get lost.

### **192) Photogenic Dogs**

Take clear standing photos of all your dogs, showing all their characteristics, especially fosters as they arrive. Should the dog become lost, you then have the appropriate photos for posters etc.

### **193) Who Cares?**

Carry a card with your address, details of your dogs, and contact details for someone who can look after them on it. Keep the card with your ID and medical information in your wallet. If you're in an accident when the dogs are home alone, a hospital emergency room should come across the card when checking your details and know that there are dogs in need. Make sure your 'designated caregivers' have keys to gain access to your property.

### **194) Chips**

If your dog is micro chipped, have the chip checked once a year when you have your vaccination check-up.

## Miscellaneous

### 195) A Fitting Collar

To find the correct size collar for your dog, add two inches to his neck measurement. When fitting the collar on your dog you should be able to slide two fingers under it to ensure that it is not too tight

### 196) Safe Toys

Give your dog safe toys. You may wish to make the toys more tempting by filling them with peanut butter or cream cheese. This may help your pet concentrate on the treats in front of him.

### 197) Fenced In

Check and secure ALL gates of a fenced in area each time you allow your dogs out. You never know when someone might have accidentally left a gate open. When bringing a new hound to your house, always take the dog to a fenced, grassy area first to go pee or poop before bringing them into the house. It helps cut down on the marking of furniture inside.

### 198) Hat Trick

Buy an expandable wooden hat rack, the kind you can hang about 10 hats on (cheap at Wal-Mart) to hang behind the door; use to hang your hounds leashes, collars, coats, etc on. You can even put a small baggy on one and put in items like plastic bags for poop scooping.

### 199) Rules for non-pet owners who visit people with pets and like to complain.

1. The dog lives here - you don't.
2. If you don't want dog hair on your clothes, don't sit on the furniture.
3. I like my dog better than I do most people. To you she's a dog, to me she's an adopted daughter who is hairy, walks on all 4's and doesn't speak clearly.
4. Dogs are better than kids. They eat less, don't ask for money, are easier to train, usually come when called, never drive your car, don't smoke or drink, don't wear your clothes, and don't need a gazillion dollars for college.

## Even More Doggie Information

If you have enjoyed this book or would like more information then you will find lots more doggie information on our dedicated web site.



[www.all-about-puppies.com](http://www.all-about-puppies.com)

Your guide to puppies and dogs,  
which breeds are right for you, how to train and look after them.  
Recommended products and gifts for dogs and their owners.

## And Finally...

We hope you have as much fun reading this book as we've had in putting it together. But most of all have fun with your dog – they really are man's best friend.

### Contact us

We are always keen to hear from fellow dog lovers and hear about their doggie stories or suggestions for improvements to our web site [www-all-about-puppies.com](http://www-all-about-puppies.com).

Send an email to [richard@all-about-puppies.com](mailto:richard@all-about-puppies.com)

If you have a hint or tip which you would like to share please email [dog.hints@all-about-puppies.com](mailto:dog.hints@all-about-puppies.com)

We'll be delighted to hear from you!