

BOUVIER DES FLANDRES CLUB

GOLDEN REEF

NOVEMBER 2021



Photo - Aura (Barry Schönfeldt)

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LETTER FROM THE CLUB COMMITTEE

Dear Members,

As another year draws to a close, this is our last magazine for 2021. Eighteen months ago we would not have envisaged that this year would also have been so adversely affected by COVID and even now it is difficult to find much news from the last quarter as so many activities have remained curtailed. Nevertheless, the little we do have follows!

It was with great sadness that we recently heard of the death of life member Birgitta van Lierop. An obituary is included further on in the magazine. We were also very saddened to hear of the passing of another member in July, Anthony Costandius. You may remember he wrote us his memoir about his first Bouv Fud which featured in a previous issue of the magazine. We extend our condolences to his wife, Ronel, and their son and daughter.

Some Bouvier family members have also died in the last quarter. The Ros family were heartbroken to say good-bye to Astra, Jenny and Peter Pantland lost their beloved Isobel suddenly in August and Liz and Felix Hodgson felt the same about losing Isobel's sister Coquette a month later. All of these dogs had reached a good age and their passing has left a big hole in each of their homes. On a happier note, there has been more interest from Bouvier owners in events where the disciplines are the focus rather than conformation. Denise Scarrott has been enjoying RallyDog competition with Miya and the two of them together with Liz Hodgson and Amor are striving for improved obedience competition qualifications - this takes time! In Natal, Hazel Johnson is regularly seen with BooBear at Agility and RallyDog. BooBear has also qualified with his Silver Canine Good Citizen award and is working towards his CD qualification. He has been a life-saver for Hazel after she was widowed a year ago and doubtless Don would have been proud of the way these two have supported each other through the last few months. Magda Labuschagne continues to enjoy tracking with Amie whilst Tendai clearly enjoys his IGP work with Liz Chamberlain. For anyone who gets pleasure from seeing their dogs enjoy life and time with their owners, all of these are activities (except IGP) can be enjoyed even at the most basic level. Those who do it enjoy time with their dog and competition is just one aspect of it where you are just really trying to improve yourself. Anyone who has done it realises that most of the mistakes are the handler's fault more often than the dog's. As mentioned previously, we don't know if we include everyone's news but, if you are busy doing things with your Bouv, please drop us a line and tell us about it. This could, for example, just be your regular classes at dog school. It doesn't have to be formal competition.

Conformation shows have been able to resume but, with the limited numbers allowed on the grounds at one time, shows have been split over more days and the atmosphere is not very exciting. Competition is also affected by the drop in numbers. Conformation showing has been relatively threatened as a sport for some time but the numbers have really plummeted compared with what we saw pre-COVID times. In the Herding Group where our Bouviers are shown, twenty years or so ago it would have been normal to have about 130 dogs competing in that group alone at a show. This had halved by about 2019 and now it has halved again. In our breed, compared with many other dogs, there have always been relatively few Bouviers on show - it is hard work to get one prepared for a show and these days not many parlours are able to turn out a Bouvier in show clip. Many owners also have no interest in the breed beyond enjoyment as a pet and do not have the inclination to learn to groom their own dogs. It is sad that these days sometimes there are no Bouviers present at all at conformation shows and Liz Hodgson says that nowadays she is generally the only one exhibiting Bouviers, as was the case with two recent trips to the Eastern Cape. Older judges have commented on how they don't see Bouviers any longer and the newly qualified judges are clearly at sea when presented with a specimen to judge. This is very detrimental to our breed and we desperately need the public to understand that KUSA registered dogs are critical to preservation of a breed. "Adopt don't shop" has its place but, unless the "rescue" (rehoming) movement in general acknowledges that, correctly built, well-bred and healthy dogs from known bloodlines have both a monetary AND , crucially, a non-monetary value, then the emotional influence on the public of such organisations will be detrimental to maintaining sound dogs of demonstrable quality.

There are a distressing number of adverts of puppies for sale/upcoming litters on a local Bouvier Facebook page (selling of any animals is against Facebook rules but the administrators are responsible for approving the posts) and the sellers seem to be people who are churning out unregistered Bouviers for a market that apparently lacks discernment and is susceptible to scams. If only we could get these "breeders" to assist us with responsible custodianship for the breed rather than money-making and if only buyers would get themselves properly informed.... It is a very difficult line to tread between speaking out against poorly bred Bouvs without seeming snobbish about registered ones - but we are the only organisation that cares about preservation of the Bouvier as a sound breed in South Africa. We really need more people on board and you, our members, can help by spreading the word that we can assist with sharing knowledge if people bother to ask.

Again, please encourage any Bouvier owners you meet to join the Club and the Bouvier Fun Facebook Group - they are welcome to both and we recognise the need to make a special effort to encourage owners of all Bouviers to join us, irrespective of whether their dogs are registered or not. We really need to share our knowledge and enthusiasm to have any influence on the way Bouviers are looked after in this country.

As always, remember that we are grateful to receive any news from our members that Denise can use to give subsequent magazines that local touch via Members' Memoirs. Don't forget our special email address photos@bouvierclub.co.za for receipt of photos for consideration for inclusion in the magazine. Remember to send them in as large a file size as you can and to let us know who (human and canine) features in the photos.

In the meantime, enjoy reading, stay safe and please write to us about your Bouvs for the next magazine.

We wish you all a happy festive season and look forward to a safer and more settled 2022.

The Committee

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

What could be more fun than a road trip to the coast? A road trip to the coast with your Bouvier!

I have just come back from Port Alfred where a friend of mine was playing in a croquet tournament. As she was occupied each day, I was free to explore with Miya.

We took "long walks on the beach", wandered along the roads, went to many pet friendly places for meals and visited nearby towns. We met a lot of dogs and people on our wanderings, the majority of whom stopped to admire Miya and invariably ended up asking, "What type of dog is she?" The word Bouvier was often met with a blank look, a few people nodded wisely but, to their credit, no one asked me if she was a Giant Schnauzer! (One speculated within earshot if she was a Black Russian)

Again on this trip the crucial need to socialise and train a dog, and especially a large dog like a Bouvier, was brought home loud and clear.

Travelling with a dog necessitates more frequent stops and with Miya having been exposed to different types and sizes of dogs as well as having been taught basic obedience from a young age, I was able to easily take her for comfort stops. At Port Alfred, I could walk her among strangers and unfamiliar dogs and not have to worry about her being approached by unfamiliar people, although when that happens I am hyper aware of her body language and demeanour although I can honestly say that she never gave me cause for concern. Despite the apprehension of some of the waitrons at the restaurants and coffee bars at the sight of a large hairy beast approaching it was gratifying

to be able to say with complete conviction that she would not be a problem and indeed, apart from the very Bouvier habit of lying in any thoroughfare, she was a delight to have along and moved under the table when told. Of course having a well-bred dog of impeccable lineage is half the battle sorted! (Thanks, Liz Hodgson!)

And so 2021 rushes to its conclusion, having passed in a flash and a blur despite the challenges. The elections are a thing of the past, more and more people are vowing to resist any further lockdowns and the groundswell of taking back our freedom is growing.

All that remains is for me to wish all a Blessed festive season. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a safe, healthy and peaceful 2022.

Liz Hodgson

Fleur



SNOWFLAKE

by RL Williams

Ten-year-old Becky stood in front of the pet store, looking through the large window at the puppies and kittens. She smiled and giggled at the well-groomed animals excited by her attention.

"I wonder how much one of these costs?" she thought, putting her hands in her coat pockets on this cold day before Christmas.

Becky walked in and gazed at the selection of adorable kittens and puppies.

"Can I help you?" an approaching lady inquired.

"I'm looking for a present for my sister, maybe a kitten or a puppy. How much are these?" Becky asked, pointing to a row of caged puppies.

"We have some for forty-five dollars on up to several hundred dollars," the saleslady replied.

"I only have nine dollars and some cents," she said sadly.

"Well, I'm sorry. We don't have anything that inexpensive."

"OK," Becky said as she looked around the small store.

The lady left to help another customer.

Becky wandered towards the back of the store. Her eyes were caught by a lone cage in a corner that housed a small frail black puppy.

"Hi little doggie," Becky said to the almost lifeless animal.

The puppy strained to lift its head, acknowledging Becky's presence. One ear rose up slightly and its frowning eyes opened halfway.

"Come here boy," she prompted the puppy. It tried to get up, but immediately fell back.

"What's wrong with you? Are you OK?" Becky asked.

The saleslady noticed Becky in the back corner and approached.

"How much is this puppy?" Becky asked.

"Oh, you don't want that one," the saleslady sighed. "He's got a bad leg and can't walk. He wouldn't make a good pet."

"But if I wanted to buy him, how much?" Becky asked.

"No honey, he's not for sale. Save your money or get your parents to come back with you and buy one of those nice puppies up front on display. Now run along dear," the lady snapped.

"My sister would like that puppy," she said as the saleslady hurried away.

"Bye bye," Becky said to the puppy. She left the store and headed home, saddened by her empathy for the frail little dog.

Becky's mom was busy preparing food for tomorrow, Christmas Day. "Becky, why don't you go watch TV or play. Your sister won't be home until four-thirty this afternoon, so you'll have to keep yourself occupied."

"OK," she responded. She went into the family room and turned on the TV.

She couldn't help but think about the lonesome puppy. The more she thought about it, the sadder she became. "I wish I could do something to get that puppy,

but I guess there's nothing I can do," she conceded.

Moments later, she noticed a man and woman on TV talking about 'getting what you want out of life.' She turned up the volume and listened.

"Well, Andy, why is it that most people can't seem to reach their goals or get what they want out of life?" the lady on TV asked.

"Interesting question," the man replied, "and the answer is primarily because they don't believe they can achieve what they want to. And those that think they can don't follow-through on their ideas and decisions with action. One of the most important things that can make success happen is taking action."

The lady replied, "That sounds so simple."

"It is," he agreed, "and most people have a good idea of what they should do, but they don't take action and they give up. If it's important, you will find the time, you will find a way, you will not give up. When you do this you realize your own power."

The lady smiled and asked her guest, "OK, Andy, I have something that's important to me that I feel I must do. What do I do to make it happen?"

He smiled and answered, "You have got to believe with certainty that it will happen. You have to ask yourself the question 'what will it take to make this happen?' And then you have to take action and be committed to making that important dream happen. Be persistent and don't give up!"

Becky excitedly hopped up from her chair. She knew what she had to do. She put on her coat and headed out the door. "I'm going to the pet store Mom."

"Be careful, and don't be too long," her mom admonished.

The pet store was busy with Christmas shoppers making last minute purchases. Becky entered the store and headed straight to the back corner where her new friend was caged.

"Hi boy," she said happily. "I'm going to get you out of here, and take you home with me."

The little puppy responded with more enthusiasm, sensing an air of excitement in Becky's voice.

The same saleslady from Becky's prior visit approached. "Back again huh. I thought I told you before that this one's not for sale and ..."

Becky interrupted, "Uh, excuse me ma'am, but," she hesitated and, regaining her confidence, said politely but sternly in a raised voice, "what would it take to be able to take this puppy home with me today?"

Somewhat dismayed by Becky's unexpectedly direct question, the saleslady paused and thought a moment.

"I'm sorry. This one's not for sale," the saleslady replied. "Now go along home."

Undaunted by the rebuff, Becky turned and approached a second lady who she assumed worked there. "Excuse me ma'am, but I would like to know what it would take to buy that puppy?" she asked, pointing to the lonesome cage in the corner.

This saleslady replied, "I don't think that one's for sale. We have some very nice puppies out front"

Becky interrupted, "But I want that one in the corner. What would it take to get that puppy?"

The saleslady paused a moment and said, "You don't want that one. It has a bad leg and can't run and jump. And it can't ..."

Becky politely but unwaveringly interrupted again, "That doesn't matter to me. I know my sister would love that puppy. What would it take to buy that puppy TODAY?" "I'm sorry, but we're busy and I need to help some other people," the saleslady said, brushing her off.

The vision of the man on TV saying don't give up replayed again in Becky's mind. She looked around for another employee, and spotted a third person, an older man, coming out of a storeroom.

"Excuse me, sir," Becky waved, "I have a very important question about one of your pets." The man came over and asked Becky what she wanted.

"I want that puppy over there, the one all by itself. What would it take to get that puppy now? I want it for a Christmas present for my sister."

"Oh," the man said, "that little puppy has a bad leg and he wouldn't make a very nice pet. I'm very sorry. He's not for sale."

Her enthusiasm dampened a bit, but she remembered the passionate TV spiel about not giving up and looking for a way to make this dream a reality. "What can I do to make this happen?" she asked herself. She walked around the store asking herself this question over and over ... finally she had an idea.

She headed out and asked the man, "How late are you open tonight?"

"Until six-o'clock," he replied.

It was now four-thirty. She knew she had to hurry.

The pet store clock now read quarter-to-six. The hectic day was coming to an end, and the three pet store employees were breathing a sigh of relief. One saleslady looked around the store at the many empty cages, empty due to their occupants finding new homes for Christmas.

The front door opened. Becky hurried in brimming with confidence and proclaimed, "I'm here to buy that little puppy in the back."

"Like we told you before, you don't want that one," the saleslady responded.

"That puppy back there would make a great present for my sister," Becky said as her mom entered pushing her sister's wheelchair.

All three salespeople converged on Becky, her sister, and her mom.

The older man tried again to explain, "I'm really sorry, but this little puppy is not for sale. He has a bad leg, he can't walk, he can't jump, he can't play ..." the man paused, looking at Becky's wheelchair-bound sister. He stood there, first confused and then awakened by the reality that confronted him.

Becky's sister looked at the small frail puppy and said, "I would love to have this one because I know how it feels to have legs that don't work right. Even though he's black, I'll name him Snowflake because he is a special one-of-a-kind present. I understand Snowflake."

Everyone stood around looking at each other, everyone knowing that all involved had just received a Christmas gift in the form of a very important lesson about life.

10 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS FOR YOUR DOG

By: Alex Lieber

#1: I will eat less and exercise more.

Too many nights on the couch, too many dog biscuits and too little time running around the local dog park has made me a little, well, fluffier. I don't think the old "I'm-just-big-boned" excuse will work anymore. I resolve to bug my owner to take me out to the doggy park several times a week.

#2: I will beg less

I've got begging down to a fine art – he's puddly in my paws – but it sure is demeaning. I promise to reserve the begging for worthwhile things, like going out to the park and T-bone steak.

#3: I will recognize the difference between furniture and fire hydrants.

I promise not to treat the furniture and walls the way I do fire hydrants. It drives my owners batty and has no lasting benefit for me (they clear away the scent almost as fast as I can "deposit" it.)

#4: I'll stay out of the cat's litter box.

I vow to resist the urge to snoop around the cat's private lavatory – even though it's a lot of fun and really makes her go nuts.

#5: I won't bite the vet anymore.

I'll remember that the vets and their staff are just trying to help in their own, inscrutable way, although they really know how to push my buttons with those needles!

#6: I won't steal food as much.

I won't go out of my way to steal food, although all bets are off if they make it really easy for me.

#7: I'll introduce myself in more appropriate ways.

In other words, I'll focus above the waist when introducing myself to humans. Somehow, I get the feeling my normal greeting methods invade their private space.

#8: I'll do better "holding it" until morning.

When nature calls, I'll steel my resolve to wait for my normal morning walk, unless special considerations apply. I'll decide what those special considerations are.

#9: I'll bark at the mailman less.

Even though it works to put him in his place, I'll try not to exercise my authority over him and other delivery people, although my self-esteem does get a boost when they retreat.

#10: I'll tolerate those homemade bandannas more.

My owner has gone to a lot of trouble to make these things, so I'll just put up with the way they feel and the taunts of the other dogs.

MEMBER'S MEMOIRS

ISOBEL

Jenny Pantland

It is with a very broken heart that I have to tell you that our beloved Isobel passed to the Rainbow Bridge on Monday 2nd August. She had a massive heart attack and we rushed her to Steven but it was too late. we are missing her sorely and her kitty friends are still looking for their big sister. Nanuk has gone into a bit of a depression because his mischief buddy is gone. She was an incredible companion and decided that her job was to keep me company all the time and especially if classical music was playing!!! Thank you for allowing us to adopt our special Furrkid we have such wonderful memories to hold in our hearts.

FLEUR

Liz Hodgson

I am writing about Fleur because she is getting older and one day – but hopefully not for a while - it will be too painful to write about her for a long time. Dick Baars came out to South Africa as a Dutch judge who is a Bouvier specialist to judge our Bouvier Club Championship show in 2010. When the show was over we were fortunate to be able to have him stay with us as a house guest. During this time I asked him for a recommendation for a Dutch breeder that we could approach with a view to importing a quality bitch who would help with a breeding programme. Although we had imported a couple of male Bouviers before, we had not had the results we would have liked in breeding in respect of some health concerns and felt a new approach was needed.

One of the recommended kennels was van Dafzicht in the Netherlands and thus it was that I approached Gerry Krah who had taken over the breeding and showing of their Bouviers from her mother Annie. The kennels are well known in the Netherlands and were founded by Gerry's grandfather Coen Semler, a name anyone with any knowledge of Dutch Bouviers will easily recall. In our Club's earlier days, a number of van Dafzicht Bouviers were imported to South Africa and made their mark here.

Fleur was born in April of the following year and so it was that Floor Betsy van Dafzicht arrived here and had "of Lepoilu" added to her grand name later in 2011. Unfortunately, in English I could just see this becoming a 'Floor' mop or

‘Floor’ mat type of joke so her call name became ‘Frenchified’ in line with our tradition of giving all our Bouvs French names in honour of their own breed title. My husband Felix collected her from the airport and, when he got home, phoned me at work immediately to say “you should see the Gorgeous Little Puppy Gerry has sent you”. Fleur also then became affectionately known as “the GLUP”. What a confident little thing she was – she emerged from her travelling crate and announced to our other Bouvs “Hello, here I am, I’m Fleur”. Of course they didn’t want to know her – except for Coquette who was only eighteen months old at the time but Coquette’s mother, Jolie, made it quite clear that Fleur was an unsuitable friend for her Princess Coquette. They really only became friends when Jolie was usurped in a bloodless coup by Fleur some years later.

Fleur went off to puppy school and made a new Bouvier friend, Misty, who had been imported from Ireland by the late Debbie Snashall a couple of weeks earlier. I used to pick up Debbie and Misty and off we went to school. I look back on this time with Debbie and our cups of coffee with the puppies at our feet at Tony’s restaurant afterwards with fond memories. Fleur was one of the naughtiest puppies we have ever had and completely irrepressible. We moved to the Cape when she was about two and had access to one of the local farmer’s vineyards for the dogs to roam loose. Many times she would tear off after some birds over an open section of ploughed land and I wondered how I was ever going to explain to Gerry that I had not looked after her dog properly and lost her. It didn’t matter how many times Felix would repeat to me that she would get tired on the soft soil and come back (which she did) – she caused a lot of domestic friction due to my stressing! She also once caused Felix to rush out to the room where I was bathing her and shout at me as she was howling as though abused. He didn’t believe me that it was simply that she was unhappy with the temperature of the water in which she was being showered – she is very particular that it is warm and at just the right temperature, even in mid-summer.

Fleur and Misty used to compete in the show ring but Fleur matured late and in the early days was usually beaten by Misty. Fleur later had a very successful show career with a few group wins and a Reserve Best in Show at an all breeds show. She also won the Bouvier Club show and finished her show career as Best in Show and Best Veteran in Show at a specialty show. I decided to retire her at the top. She was also South Africa’s first Grand Champion Bouvier – her daughter Miya is the second.

Fleur was also an excellent brood bitch and produced twenty lovely puppies over three litters with my male Poilu, a van der Overstort import. She gave birth easily and looked after her puppies well. Of all the bitches I have bred, Fleur has given me the most pleasure in breeding because she was so easy. Délice was born in her first litter and I kept her – Délice loved “helping” her mother when subsequent litters came and she herself has produced Fleur’s grandchildren.



Liz Hodgson

Misty & Fleur (at the bottom)

Some months after retiring Fleur, I was grooming her and found a small lump – no bigger than the rise over my smallest fingernail. Anyone who has ever had a dog with cancer will know the immediate anxiety that causes. It turned out to be mast cell cancer but, although already stage 3 and in her blood, it had in fact been caught early. If I did not groom her myself, I would never have found it and a parlour would be extremely unlikely to have done so. I took her to a specialist with the objective of getting more information and not really expecting to start any treatment but she was only eight and a half years old and it just seemed too premature to say good bye. We embarked on the treatment and, for several months, I wondered if I was doing her a disservice as she looked awful – she lost a lot of weight and hair. However, six months later after fortnightly treatments, she was pronounced clear and a splenectomy was recommended after a later scan to ensure no further problems. I was able to celebrate the return of her old rebellious self at toenail cutting time and was pleased to see she could resume the previously forbidden activity of climbing on the sofa in the braaikamer (now whole heartedly permitted on that piece of furniture). It is now two years ago since we found the lump and, as I write this, she is at my feet and looks lovely again. I hate to see her getting old but know it is part of life. She is very treasured and one of the reasons I have decided to keep Délice's last puppy, Fleur's granddaughter Julia, is to hang on to the last that I can probably have of Fleur. She is a very special Bouvier in our household.

ÉMILIE

Betsy-Jane Scott

As a pup, Émilie was very active in the department of destruction: digging, surfing the counters and helping herself to what she fancied - be it a liver cake just baked; pencils and rulers off my table; shoes that had not been put away high enough; the hose pipe; plants she thought needed a new home. But she has a fetish for pillows off my bed and cushions off the settee. She STRUTS around with these articles in her mouth with such an attitude as if to say: "Catch me if you can!" She is like a piece of "Velcro" and always by my side. When I am sad and shed a tear, she KNOWS my mood and rushes up to lick the tears away. My Meg is a Bouvier X Airedale and has the same temperament as a Bouvie. She is more gentle than our boisterous Émilie but the two get along so well. Meg is quite happy to play second fiddle to the younger little thug.

One day I gave each dog a nice meaty bone and they plonked down to enjoy them. Some time later, little madam sneaks in and takes Meg's bone away and runs off! This of course became a huge game running around the garden with bone firmly clenched in her mouth - and no ways was she giving it up! Meg and I then went on a "Search & Recover," looking for where she might have buried it.

Nose to ground, Meg thought she had sniffed it out, but I left it there. After we came inside I heard a going on and play outside the window - and blow me down, the little rascal HAD buried the bone! Wish you could have seen her strutting around with that cheeky little waggle Bouviers have.

I am SO very blessed to have these two as my companions!! I used to SHOW Émilie, but realise that I just don't have the energy and physical strength to continue with the 'Show

Scene.' It's a pity, as she is an exceptional example of the breed, and if I could continue 'showing' her - I know that she could end up as a champion.

However, I am quite happy to have her as my beloved pet!



Betsy-Jane Scott

ÉMILIE

REMEMBERING BIRGITTA VAN LIEROP

Janet Hogg

My first Bouvier, Athertons Damsel, came from the kennels of Jimmy and Flo Brews, and it was not long after she came to me that I was advised to have her groomed by Irene McKenzie-Fraser and that led to my first of many shows with Bruna and subsequent bouvs.

Carl and Birgitta, together with the Smits, Kriels, Wards and Snashalls formed a formidable team both in the ring and running the club which had not been in existence for very long (I stand to be corrected at any point!) As well as acting as Chairman and Secretary, Birgitta, together with Carl, would turn out early on a no show weekend to run classes for the more unruly of dogs and handlers!

Birgitta loved her dogs fiercely, and no-one from that era could forget her running round the ring, red hair flying, with her magnificent and huge boy, Zak! We fell under the Working Dog category at that point, and it was Birgitta's dearest wish that all working dogs should have passed at least a rudimentary obedience test before being awarded the title of champion. The Club took this to the Kennel Union, but there was too much opposition and nothing came of our proposal - however, dog training continued and there were some successful dogs in the obedience ring as there are now, which made Birgitta very happy.

A long and enduring friendship was formed from these halcyon days and, together with Georgina Reidmaier, we spent many happy times together both in and outside the Bouvier world. Mathew and Emily have been here from London for several months on and off, and on Saturday we poured through some old photographs of shows and fun days.

Birgitta will be dearly missed by all who knew her, and by the Bouvier Club she served so passionately in many capacities.

Georgina has adopted her dog Ringo, a decision that closes a chapter on a treasured friendship.

Birgitta, you will be missed.'



BIRGITTA VAN LIEROP



Penny Abbott

I am so sad to hear of Birgitta's passing, the end of a Bouvier era for me. My husband fell in love with Bouviers when he saw her enormous Zak, and decided we simply had to have a Bouv. So our first Bouviers (2 male puppies) in 1982 came from her Woolomooloo kennel, although not from Zak, but from her Judith with another beautiful huge grey Bouv, called Ajax. We didn't mean to get two puppies, but on visiting the litter we loved both of them, so home they came with us, to turn out to be double trouble, although each a wonderful dog, and we loved them very much. Drake died quite young, but Pippin lived to a very ripe old age. We used to board the puppies at the van Lierop's Chartwell home when we went on holiday, and over the years we witnessed the enormous amount of work that Birgitta and Carl put into developing their property. Birgitta at the time had a business providing dogs for commercial film shoots, and managed to insert Bouviers into several of these. Birgitta and Carl were staunch members and office-bearers of the Bouvier Club, so it was compulsory to bring our puppies along to all the shows, come rain or shine. There were probably about 20 Bouviers being shown at the time, and, having been into the ring very early in the morning, we whiled away the rest of the morning with a skottle fry up breakfast accompanied by much wine. None of the male Bouviers liked each other, so the handlers had to stand in opposite corners of the ring, and there was very fierce competition for top placing. Birgitta was really synonymous with the Bouvier Club for very many years, and stuck with the breed to the very end, having inspired many others to fall in love with Bouvs. She will be sadly missed.

5

WAYS TO TELL YOUR DOGS YOU LOVE THEM IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE

by Justin Palmer

Pup parents know that our dogs love us deeply, even if they do not express it in the same manner humans do. Recently, behavioural research saddened dog lovers when it showed that most dogs don't like to be hugged.

That's not to say our pups don't enjoy receiving affection – they live for our love and approval!

If you want to express your love and appreciation for all the joy your dogs bring into your life, why not try telling them in a language they can understand?

1. Gaze Deeply Into Their Eyes

Dr, Brian Hare, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at Duke University topped the NY Times best seller list with his book, *The Genius of Dogs*. In an interview with Anderson Cooper this past Spring he told the dog-loving newsman that when your pup stares at you he is “hugging you with his eyes.”

In 2015, a team of Japanese researchers identified a phenomenon they dubbed the “oxytocin-gaze positive loop” between bonded humans and dogs. Much like a mother gazing into the eyes of her new baby, extended eye contact with our dogs can cause the feel-good hormone, oxytocin to flood both brains.

Oxytocin is associated with nurturing and attachment, meaning a soft, gentle stare can wordlessly communicate your feelings of love for your pooch in a language dogs have come to understand over thousands of years alongside humans.

This doesn't mean you should stare deeply into the eyes of the dog that guards your local junkyard! Direct eye contact is still considered a challenge or threat in many situations. However, with your own, trusted pet, gazing into his eyes when the two of you are calmly relaxing can certainly strengthen your bond.

Speak softly, stroke him gently and maintain eye contact as long as your dog is comfortable with it.

2. Raise Your Eyebrows

Another Japanese study, published in the September 2013 volume of *Behavioural Processes*, found that dogs raise their eyebrows – especially the left one – when greeted by their owners. Using a high speed camera, they scrutinized the facial movements of 12 dogs of various breeds when looking at their owners versus strangers.

When the strangers came along to greet them, the test dogs displayed less facial activity overall and most of it was right sided. The significance is that the right brain controls the left side of the face and is tied to emotion, while the left brain controls the right side of the face and is tied into analytical behaviours.

The researchers concluded that the increased movement of the dogs' left eyebrows in the presence of their owners indicated "facial laterality in response to emotional stimuli" and that this laterality "probably reflects the dog's attachment to the owner."

In humans, specific emotions are attributed to either the left or right facial hemisphere and help us interpret what the person we are interacting with is feeling. Much like the oxytocin-gaze positive pathway, dogs seem to understand and mimic these subtle expressions. So if you are able to raise one eyebrow, make it the left one. Your pup will really feel special!

3. Lean on Them

When we say "lean on" your dog, we don't mean in an emotional sense, although dogs are great listeners. We mean you should actually press your weight against your dog physically. Not to the point where he feels cornered (or crushed!) just a little to show that you trust him. This is something our pups do to display their affection for us that is often overlooked.

Have you ever had your pooch press up against the backs of your legs while you're busy in the kitchen? This is another of the many ways they demonstrate their affection for us. It also indicates a high level of trust. Many dogs press themselves tightly against their humans when they are frightened by a thunderstorm or feeling under the weather.

This desire for physical closeness is yet another type of dog hug. If you want to show your pup you love him and rely on him, try "hugging" him right back with a gentle lean!

4. Let Them Sleep With You

Emory University neuroscientist Gregory Berns is the author of *How Dogs Love Us* and he has spent decades studying the canine brain using MRI. According to his research, sleeping with a human is the ultimate display of love and trust our dogs can give because that is when they are at their most vulnerable. In the wild, bonded dogs sleep in close proximity to one another, indicating our furry bedmates consider us members of their family.

Cuddling can also be mutually beneficial for both you and your pooch. First, you help keep each other warm – they don't call it a "three dog night" for nothing! Second, their rhythmic breathing and steady heart rate are comforting, helping to lull you to sleep. In fact, research shows that a dog's heart rate can sync up to your own just like a parent and child or a loving couple!

Finally, several studies, including one conducted by the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2004 have found that eye contact isn't the only way dogs stimulate the release of oxytocin. Just touching a dog can boost your "love hormone" level, helping you de-stress from the day and relax into sleep.

If you have a No Dogs in Bed policy, try snuggling up on the sofa or the floor for a few minutes each day to show your affection, trust and appreciation for all your pooch does for you.

5. Just Be Yourself

Throughout his extensive research, Dr. Berns has found that although it's sometimes hard for us to tell what our dogs are thinking, they definitely do not have the same problem reading our emotions!

A 2016 study conducted by animal behaviour experts and psychologists from the universities of Lincoln and Sao Paulo showed that dogs not only recognize the visual cues of human emotions, they can also hear the difference between joy and anguish in our voices.

While they loyally offer comfort when we are sad or sick, a brand new 2018 study found that dogs really shine when it comes to recognizing and helping us celebrate the joyful times in life.

The researchers trained a group of eight dogs to lie calmly in a fMRI machine and showed them pictures of strangers with either happy or neutral expressions. When reviewing the results, they noted all the dogs had significant neural activity in response to pictures depicting happiness.

If your love for your pups is true, they already know it just by looking at your facial expressions, reading your voice, studying your body language and interpreting your actions. So just keep doing what you're doing and your dogs will reward you by returning your affections in their own special ways!



Liz Hodgson

Julia at six weeks old

EASY DOGGY TOOTHPASTE

by Justin Palmer

Ingredients

1 cup coconut oil 2 tbs baking soda ½ tsp turmeric ½ tsp kelp
c tsp dried parsley

Method

Place coconut oil in a water bath until it is soft and pliable

Mix powdered ingredients thoroughly into coconut oil

Store in fridge between uses; freeze excess paste in ice cube trays and thaw as needed.

Just a small dollop of this tasty toothpaste on a dog-safe toothbrush is all you need!

**Never use human toothpaste with your pup.
It can contain Xylitol, an ingredient that is lethal to dogs.**

OBITUARY

By Lily Feinn

Club life member Birgitta van Lierop passed away on the 12th October after a period of ill health. Birgitta had always retained an interest in the Club. She served on the Club committee and produced the Club's early newsletter for a number of years in the 1980s when the Club first started holding Championship shows. Tributes by Janet Hogg and Penny Abbott are featured in the Members' Memoirs.

We wish Birgitta's son Mathew and daughter Emily our condolences at this sad time.

My deepest sympathy. She was a wonderful person, may she rest in peace. - Kobie Krause

Condolences to the Family. MHIS RIP. - Rod and Elmari Eterman

I didn't know Birgitta well but we did interact on several occasions on Club business and I just remember her as always talking so much common sense. She also really earned my particular respect for speaking out a couple of years ago against the public denigration of another Club member when others just joined the crowd on wrong information. - Liz Hodgson

So sorry about the sad news.....I cannot put a face to the name right now but yes the van Lierops, together with the Smits, Kriels, Wards and Snashalls were big competition in the ring in those early days when we also started with our Bouvs and always very helpful to newcomers. We so enjoyed our shows and will always remember the fun and competition..... days that are gone forever. Our deepest condolences goes to her loved ones left behind. - Cornie & Rolien van Greuning

So sorry to hear this - Betsy-Jane Scott

So very sorry. Rest in Peace, Birgitta - Denise Scarrott

RAINBOW BRIDGE

Sometimes when you're feeling sad, when all you
want is me,
I softly sit and gently put my head upon your knee.
Some nights when your heart does ache, worn out by
tears you weep.
I quietly lie beside your bed and guard you as you
sleep.
Somewhere far beyond this place, a land where all
run free,
I'm calmly watching over you and waiting patiently.
Someday when the time is right, your voice will call
to me,
and I'll come running like the wind, Someday... wait
and see.

Astra - Louise Ros and family
Isobel - Jenny and Peter Pantland
Coquette - Liz and Félix Hodgson

BILIARY IN THE DOG

Valley Farm Animal Hospital

This is a condition which is also known as tick fever or 'Bosluiskoors' and is caused by a microscopic protozoan parasite called *Babesia canis*.

It is one of the most common diseases vets see, especially in spring and summer.

The major tick species that spreads biliary is the yellow dog tick. Male ticks are brown in colour whereas the female ticks are a darker grey-brown colour. Initially ticks will be infected when they bite a dog already sick with biliary. They are carriers of these parasites for their entire lifespan of 1-3 years. The babesia parasites remain in the salivary glands of the tick in this time.

It takes about 48 hours of attachment to a dog for a tick to transmit the disease but the adult female tick is the most likely to cause infection. She needs to feed for the longest time to mature her eggs before she lays them, thus increasing the time for infection to occur. Some of her eggs will also already be infected when laid which propagates the disease in future tick generations.

Once a dog has been bitten by an infected tick it takes 10-21 days for the disease to show clinical symptoms. This is called the incubation period. The babesia parasites will invade the red blood cells of the dog and then multiply numerous times until the cells lyses (bursts).

The result of this is that the dog becomes anaemic from the loss of red blood cells. As the dog's immune system tries to respond to the infection a fever will occur - it is often at this time that the dog's appetite diminishes and he or she may start vomiting and become lethargic. This is usually when owners become aware that their dogs are unwell.

As the infection and anaemia worsen, the dog's gums become pale and may also be yellow tinged - this is called icterus. There may be difficult breathing and sometimes the urine may be red or brown coloured. Dogs may die suddenly at this stage.

If the disease is allowed to progress without treatment, numerous complications can occur which most often end in death. Dogs may develop severe respiratory distress where fluid build up in the lung tissue prevents oxygen exchange.

The kidneys can go into acute renal failure where they do not function to produce sufficient urine. Complications involving destruction of healthy red blood cells and platelets may further worsen the prognosis and make therapy more difficult.

Brain swelling and damage can occur from poor oxygenation and this may result in behavioural changes, seizures, coma and death. Most often dogs die from multiple organ dysfunction and failure.

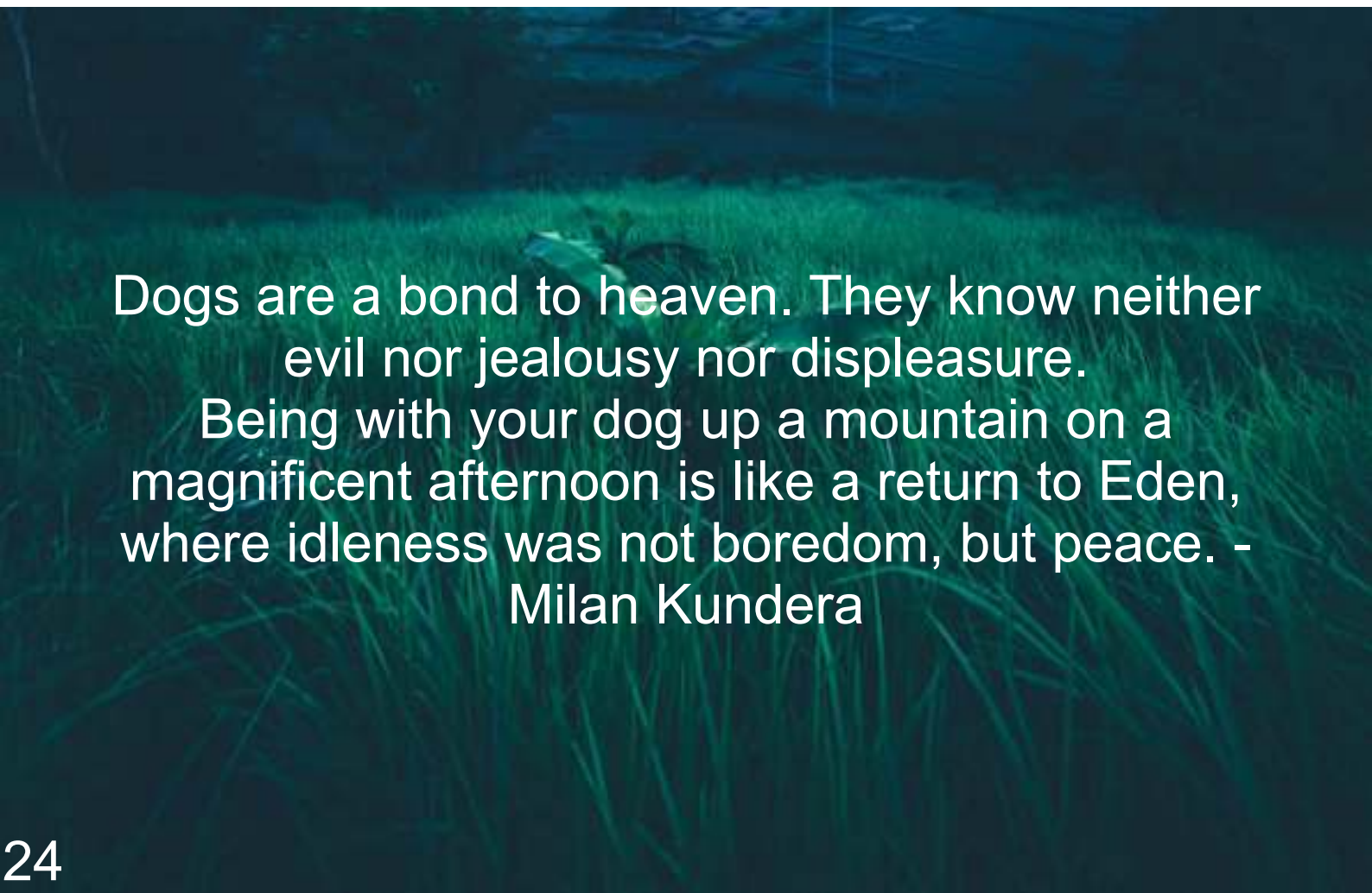
It is absolutely important that any time a dog is suspected of having biliary that you seek veterinary help immediately. A vet will perform a clinical examination which includes having the temperature taken and the heart and lungs being auscultated with a stethoscope.

A blood smear will be made from a needle prick to the ear. It is only on a blood smear that biliary is diagnosed. Treatment cannot be done without this important step. There are many different drugs used to treat biliary but some of them may be toxic if given to dogs when they do not have the disease.

Once biliary has been diagnosed an injection will be given which will kill the babesia parasites. If the infection is detected early treatment may only require this injection. Sometimes a special food and a liver tonic may also be prescribed.

In more severe cases hospitalisation and a blood transfusion often becomes necessary. This is especially important in dogs that are very anaemic and collapsed. It is at this stage that the most severe complications can occur and vets will try to prevent these with intravenous fluids and medications like anti-nausea injections and cortisone. Unfortunately this intensive therapy can become quite costly.

It is best to prevent this disease through adequate tick control. This means using quality products as per their instructions as well as checking your pet's coat daily for ticks, especially after walks in the veld. This all helps prevent your special friend from getting the disease.



Dogs are a bond to heaven. They know neither
evil nor jealousy nor displeasure.

Being with your dog up a mountain on a
magnificent afternoon is like a return to Eden,
where idleness was not boredom, but peace. -
Milan Kundera

MIYA'S MESSAGE



Well, we're back home after a very special week, full of adventures, surprises and new things!

I thought my Auntie Jo had a pet frog because she was always talking about "Croakie", which I thought was his name. And when I heard them talking about going on a trip to Port Alfred, I thought he would come with us to the sea. But I was really wrong!

It turned out that Croakie is a game played with balls and upside down hammers where you have to smack the ball through a wire thing and the first one through seven hoops is the winner, I think..

I'll start at the beginning. On Saturday Auntie Jo arrived really early and we packed all the stuff into our car. It was really full and I was sharing the back seat with the fridge which is luckily not too big. Then we had our first surprise. When we tried to start the car it was dead! After trying to find out the problem we decided to use Auntie Jo's car so had to unpack everything and stuff it all in a smaller car but we managed and left - later than we wanted to but we left!

I won't tell you about the trip except that we stopped quite a lot for me to stretch my legs (and for other things!) and once to save a tortoise that was trying to cross the N1 and got to where we would be staying in Middelburg. No, we didn't get lost. There is another town with the same name much further away.

This was where we had our second surprise. Denise saw something under her pillow and thought it was a hot water bottle or something and went to take it out. IT WAS A SNAKE! It was very comfortable and quite happy. We called the owners and they came and after a bit caught it in a bucket and took it away. They took a picture of it when they let it loose the next day and it was a BIG Cape Cobra!

We got to Port Alfred the next day at about lunch time and after unpacking the car we went for a walk on the beach which was just over the road.

Now I have seen the sea before when I went to Hermanus with Quetty. But this was a bit different. There it was just sand but here there were lots of rocks and it was very pretty. But I think the water comes from the same place because it tasted the same. The sand is also quite tiring to walk on, especially when it's dry but because the water is quite restless and can't make up its mind to stay or go, most of the time there is wet sand to walk on and leave a trail of footprints. We would walk on the beach 3 or 4 times a day. We also did lots of other stuff:

We went to places to eat. It's very nice because all the places seem to be pet friendly which means we could all go.

We met up with Robyn who is Denise's great niece, and she is great. She has a dog called Tiggy and we got on well. We walked together on the beach and went to a place called Bathurst (but not for a bath) where we had ice-cream and where they have the world's biggest pineapple.

I met Denise's cousin's dogs called Copper and Shadow. We went to the beach but they ran off and had to be chased after. While that was going on I decided to go for a deep swim in a pool where there were ducks. It was a dumb thing to do because it meant I was too wet to go to lunch in the car and had to stay at home. I suppose it serves me right for not listening when Denise said not to go in!

We went to watch the people playing croakie but it was a bit puzzling 'cos I didn't understand why they were mean to one another and hit the other person's ball away from the hoop thingy.

Lots and lots of people came to talk to me every day and tell Denise how beautiful I am. Most didn't know I was a Bouvier so we taught them a bit about us.

Then it was time to pack up and come home, through lots of rain and wind.

Just a last brag: when we went out to supper in Aliwal North on the way home we were outside where they mostly let dogs go and Denise had to go inside to order her food and told me to "stay" which I did a perfectly! OK, Auntie Jo was nearby but the people were really impressed especially one lady who said she was an animal behaviourist and thought I was very well behaved. Good thing she didn't see me and my swim!

It was a really good holiday and Auntie Jo even won a cup for croakie!

Hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas with lots of spoils and prezzies!



DOGS OF WAR: AFGHAN MUTTS FIND NEW HOME AFTER MISSING U.S. EVACUATION

Karim SAHIB / AFP

In a makeshift training centre at Kabul airport, dozens of dogs that were left behind during last month's chaotic evacuations from Afghanistan have found a new home - and new handlers.

While it is unclear who the dogs belonged to, handler Hewad Azizi found them in the area that was controlled by US forces and more were found in zones that belonged to former Afghan police. Some were trained to sniff out explosives, their new handlers say.

They are among the remnants of the two-decade American intervention which ended with the hurried airlift of more than 120 000 people from Kabul as the Taliban returned to power.

Handler Azizi, who works for a company handling security at the airport, said he went out looking for abandoned dogs as soon as the last US soldier left.

He told AFP at the training centre, which faces hangars that were used for US planes and military equipment: "When I saw (the soldiers leaving) I went to save the dogs."

He found 30 - half of them in the area that was controlled by US forces.

The dogs are now being fed, cared for and trained by Azizi and his colleagues at the security company's training centre, housed in two converted shipping containers separated by a weed-strewn strip of earth.

The United States pulled its final troops out of Afghanistan on August 30th, ending America's longest war just ahead of the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks that prompted the US-led invasion.

Hours after the last soldier left, animal rights group PETA said in a statement that 60 bomb-sniffing dogs and 60 other "working dogs" were left behind by the US forces.

The group appealed to President Joe Biden "to take immediate action", warning that the dogs were "suffering in the heat without adequate access to food or water".

The Pentagon quickly denied that US military personnel abandoned some of their dogs at the airport.

"To correct erroneous reports, the US military did not leave any dogs in cages at Hamid Karzai International Airport, including the reported military working dogs," Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby tweeted.

Azizi and his colleagues are not sure about the identity of the previous owners. All they are focussing on now is how to put them back to work when the airport returns to normal.

"We have done training with them to find out what they are used for exactly," he explained, adding that they have realised "they are bomb dogs".

Azizi's favourite dog, Rex, a dark brown Malinois, is one of the recent discoveries. Every day, he takes Rex for a walk in a small deserted area a few metres away from three old Afghan Air Force planes.

In a small stretch of land littered with bullet cases and empty bags of US military meal rations, he hides a box that smells like explosives and sends Rex to find it.

Seconds later, Rex indicates the box and is given a ball to play with as a reward.

"We train them to see how we can use them," explained Mohamad Mourid, a supervisor at the centre which operates under the umbrella of GAAC, the UAE-based company handling ground and security operations at the airport since last year.

"We feed them, give them water, and clean them."

Soon the dogs will be put to work as the airport, which shut for repairs after the evacuations, gradually reopens.



Handlers training dogs which were left behind during last month's chaotic evacuations from Afghanistan, in a makeshift training centre at the airport in Kabul.

CAN DOGS DRINK OCEAN WATER?

Read this before your next trip to the beach

By Danielle Esposito

When your dog is having the time of her life running and splashing in the ocean, it's hard (if not near impossible) to keep her from drinking the salt water.

But is it actually OK for her to lap it up like the ocean is her own personal water bowl?

Dr. Chyrle Bonk, a veterinarian working with Doggie Designer, says: "While a few mouthfuls won't hurt her, too much seawater can cause salt poisoning, which can be fatal."

Salt poisoning occurs when dogs eat or drink anywhere from 1 to 4 grams, or less than 1 teaspoon, of salt per half kg of body weight.

So that means a 27kg dog would need to consume around 55 teaspoons of salt in order for poisoning to occur, and a 2kg dog would need about 4 teaspoons of salt.

For context, the salinity of the ocean is 35 parts per thousand, so there are 35 grams of salt for every 1,000 millilitres of seawater. Since there are about 8 grams of salt in a single cup of seawater, it would take about 7 to 8 cups of seawater to make your 27kg dog sick.

"Now, that may seem like a lot of salt water for a dog to drink, but considering the way that some dogs hit the water bowl after playing, drinking this much seawater might not be that unbelievable," Dr. Bonk said.

If a dog has had too much salt, the first sign is that she'll be thirsty and want to drink more water. "This is because the salt in the digestive tract draws water from the blood and nearby cells in order to try to dilute out the high concentration," Dr. Bonk said.

Other signs of salt poisoning in dogs include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Dehydration (indicated by panting, dry gums and weakness)

"If that dehydration gets too severe or isn't corrected, it can be fatal," Dr. Bonk said. If you suspect that your dog has had way too much seawater, Dr. Bonk recommends enlisting the help of a veterinarian to treat salt poisoning.

"The main treatment method is to reverse the dehydration, but gradually," Dr. Bonk said. "The ideal time frame to rehydrate a dog with salt poisoning is two to three days. That's because doing so too quickly can lead to swelling of the brain."

A veterinarian will give a dehydrated dog IV fluids and electrolytes, treat seizures and provide any other supportive care that's needed.

In order to keep your dog from drinking too much ocean water, make sure she always has fresh water in front of her while at the beach.

“Take frequent breaks from playing in the water. If you throw a ball, stick or other object into the sea repeatedly, it is inevitable that some sea water will be ingested each time the object is retrieved. Don’t overdo this game. It could prove fatal.

Offer them fresh water drinks,” Dr. Bonk suggested. “If you notice them drinking salt water, whether because they are thirsty or just playing, get them out of there and take a break.”

While a little bit of salt water won’t hurt your pup, it’s always important to make sure she has plenty of fresh water to keep her happy, hydrated and ready for tons of fun at the beach.

Ever notice.....

That a dog's affection increases
in direct proportion
to how wet and sandy he is?



Hazel Johnson

BooBear

CORE MUSCULATURE

Dr Tanya Grantham, Animal Health & Hydro

Core musculature is vitally important for stability and mobility in dogs. Daily tasks like sitting, standing, bending to pee and poo all require core muscles. A strong core reduces the risk of injury. The stronger they are, the more comfortable your dog. The core covers all the muscles that lie close to the centre of the body. It stabilises the trunk, spine and pelvis. Much of the core focus for veterinary rehabilitation professionals is behind the ribs. The epaxial muscles lie dorsal (on top) to the transverse vertebral processes and the hypaxial muscles are ventral (beneath). Core muscles hold the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae in a secure, balanced position yet allow flexibility and movement. The expaxial system is frequently referred to by veterinarians as the paraspinals and includes the transversospinalis, longissimus and iliocostal systems. Included in these systems is the multifidus group and spinal rotators, both of which are important for maintaining correct posture. Hypaxial muscles of importance in dogs are the lateral and ventral abdominal muscles and the iliopsoas complex.

Core strength is the balance between these two groups of muscles (epaxials and hypaxials). The core must be adequately supported by the larger muscle groups to enable the smaller, postural muscles to support joint function. Insufficient foundational strength will result in subtle changes of movement patterns. The fatigue causes overuse of joints and muscles with ensuing incorrect phasing (incoordination). The final result is overcompensation and subsequent injury. Without core strength the integrity of the entire muscular system is constantly challenged.

One of the ways of ascertaining muscle fitness in a dog is to perform a palpation of 6 major groups of muscles. The core makes up 3 of this group. Each muscle group is palpated and given a score out of 100 (or a percentile). For example: a percentile of 50 is allocated to a healthy pet dog. Less than 50 indicates muscle wastage. The number rises the fitter the dog. This will yield 6 percentiles. The ideal is to have these figures relatively close to each other. This would indicate a fairly balanced individual.

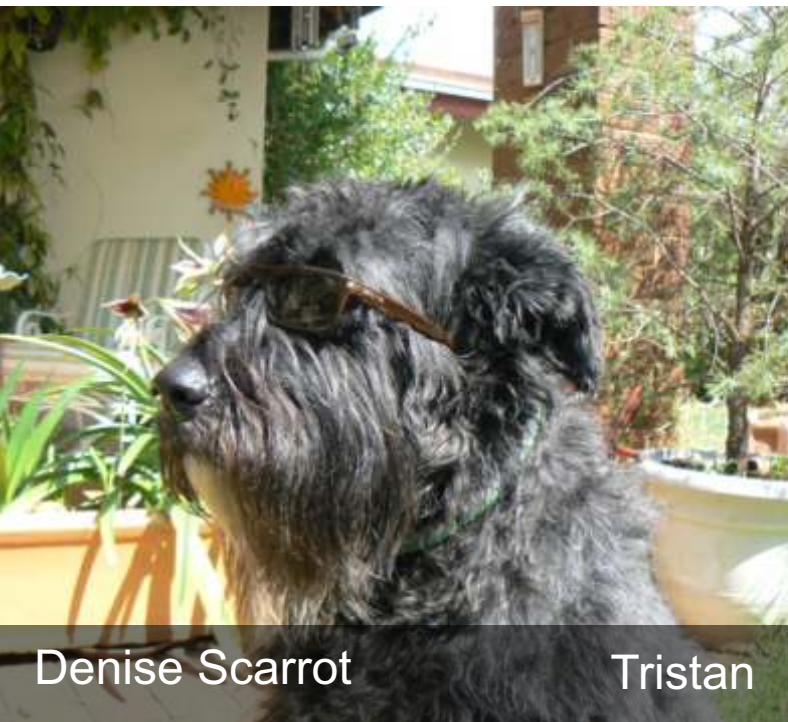
Some signs that your dog may have a weak core include poor posture with dips in the topline, poor balance (test by lifting one leg), excessive sway in the rear end, difficulty transitioning from a sit to a stand, or rising from the ground, and inability to hold a position. A dog requires co-ordination of the front and rear legs (a function of core) to be able to move well. Physical rehabilitation practitioners are adept at applying exercises which strengthen core musculature. Exercises focus on improving both stability and mobility. Stability exercises include those which enhance balance, flexibility and proprioception. In order to increase mobility the dog requires strength. Strengthening exercises are a major component of a core program.

WHAT IS UNDER-THRESHOLD?

Bone Canis Dog training

To be successful in any training, we always need to make sure that the dog is in a headspace that will allow for learning to occur. A dog that is too stressed or aroused is classed as 'over-threshold'. This happens when a dog is put into a situation they are not ready for too quickly.

For training to work, it needs to be done gradually and the dog should always be 'under-threshold'. This is not only necessary, it is the only ethical way to train



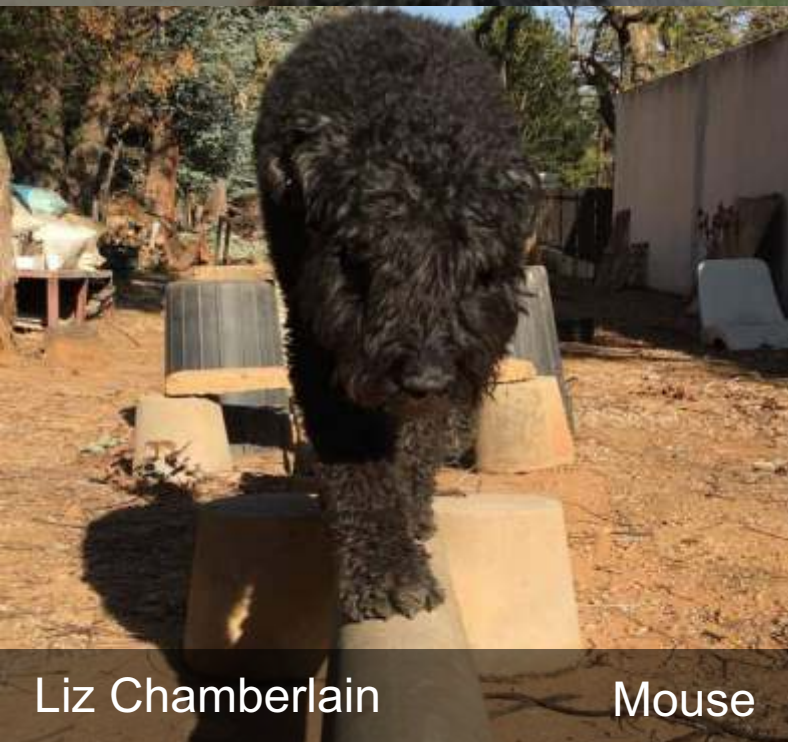
Denise Scarrot

Tristan



Liz Hodgson

Fleur



Liz Chamberlain

Mouse



Betsy-Jane Scott

Émilie

THE SHAKE OFF

Mim Coward, LLC dog training

Have you seen your dog do a “shake off”? I’m betting you have!

The shake off is a great body language cue! It’s super easy to spot, and serves to tell you so much about how your dog feels about all kinds of situations, interactions and things!

A shake off is a sign of stress, essentially. It is the release of tension that builds in a moment of stress. A reset. A *phew* boy I’m glad THAT’S over.

Shake offs will generally occur AFTER a tense or stressful moment

Maddie shook off yesterday in the woods, when we ran into another dog on a narrow trail and after a moment of tense sniffing the other pup gave a little growl (totally understandable, he was on a leash, the space was confined, he simply gave a polite request for space) Maddie kept moving down the trail, stopping a few steps away to give a big shake off “ok, that was a little nerve wracking!” A shake off is a common way for a dog to “shake off” the tension after/while interacting with another dog.

Shake offs are often seen after unwanted tactile touching too - such as a dog who is being petted in a way they don’t like, who then moves aside and delivers a big shake off. Or a dog who shakes off after a veterinary exam.

Sometimes shake offs are used as a calming signal (aka cut off cue), a way to actively diffuse tension or lower arousal when directly interacting with another dog, one dog shakes off and the other may do so in return - a signal of non-aggressive intent. It is seen often when dogs are playing, when the play gets to be too much and the dogs use shake offs and other signals to lower the play to a mellower level. They are often seen in greeting rituals as well, and many other situations.

When you see a shake off in your own dog - how do you know what it means? Take a look at the context - was someone just touching or handling your dog, did something scary just happen? Are there two dogs interacting? Was it a moment of play? Or a moment of tension? Two dogs frozen briefly, then shaking off and turning away, or shaking off back and forth?

If there are two dogs interacting together, keep in mind it could be completely normal to see shake offs - if the behaviours following them are loose and friendly, it could just be part of the natural regulation of play. However, if you’re seeing a lot of shake offs in your dog when they’re around other dogs, or if your dog shakes off and tries to avoid the other dog it’s a sign of stress. Always make sure your dog can easily get away, and don’t let another dog pursue an interaction if your dog has said no and is trying to move away.

If you’re seeing a lot of shake offs from your dog following handling/petting either from you, or from others - pay attention to this, your dog is uncomfortable

with these physical interactions. prevent strangers from handling your dog, give your dog more space around unfamiliar people, and learn how to only pet your dog when they are actively asking you to (consent, people! it's not JUST for people!) or work on counter conditioning games to make them more comfortable with handling. But listen to the dog, repeatedly signalling like this is an intentional attempt to communicate with you, and you'll be amazed at how much deeper your relationship when you're dog will become when you learn how to hear what they are telling you!



**I just watched my dog chase his tail
for 5 minutes and thought,
“Wow! Dogs are easily entertained.”**

**Then I realised.....
I had just watched my dog
chase his tail for 5 minutes!**

WHY DO DOGS KICK WHEN YOU SCRATCH THEM?

by Amber King

No dog lover can resist doling out a good belly rub when their pup flops onto the floor and shows their stomach. It's always your goal to find that magic spot that gets their leg moving like Thumper in "Bambi." When you find it, and your dog's leg starts going crazy, you assume you're giving them exactly what they asked for.

The secret most dog owners don't know, however, is that kicking their leg during a belly rub doesn't always mean the dog is having a good time. There's a biological reason behind why they do it, and it might change everything you thought you knew about giving a good belly rub.

The Scratch Reflex

Reflexes are involuntary movements that allow the body to react to something before the thought has time to reach the brain. Some reflexes are for balance, like the one your doctor tests by hitting your knee with their special hammer, and others are for survival and protection, like putting your hands in front of you when you fall or blinking when a bug flies into your eye.

Dogs have reflexes too, and one of them is responsible for the belly rub leg kick. It's called the scratch reflex, and according to Animal Planet, it's what dogs do when something is irritating them. Under your dog's soft belly skin, there's a complex network of nerves. Those nerves communicate with the spinal cord to send a message to the leg that it needs to move. Researchers think its main purpose is to tell the dog it needs to scratch away pests that could end up causing them harm. It's a command they have no choice but to follow, and they have no control over when it starts or how fast they kick.

Do Dogs Even Like It?

Now that we've compared your belly rubs to an irritating pest, you're probably rethinking everything you thought you knew about your pet-pleasing skills. It's easy to assume that a fast-moving leg is a sign your dog is enjoying their belly rub, but science says that's not always the case. It's like your doctor hitting your knee cap over and over. It doesn't hurt, but it's also pretty annoying. Some dogs only tolerate being scratched in that special spot because they've learned to submit to what their owners want.

At the same time, however, there will always be dogs that LOVE belly rubs. They love them so much, they don't care about whatever their leg is doing. Regular belly rubs (the ones that don't involve leg kicking) are still enjoyable, and the feeling of their owner's affection overshadows all else.

It's All in the Body Language

To figure out how your dog feels about being scratched in their special spot,

pay attention to the rest of their body language. If they try to move out of your way or roll back onto their stomach, that's an obvious sign they're not enjoying what you're doing. Tensing their muscles, pinning their ears, and keeping their mouth tightly closed are also things dogs do when they're uncomfortable or irritated.

If your dog is happy to keep showing you their belly and lets their tongue loll out of their mouth, there's a good chance they're enjoying their belly rub as much as you think they are. They know they have your full attention, and there's nothing better than that. There's also the possibility they thoroughly enjoy the feeling of having their scratch reflex triggered over and over.

To Rub the Belly or to Not Rub the Belly?

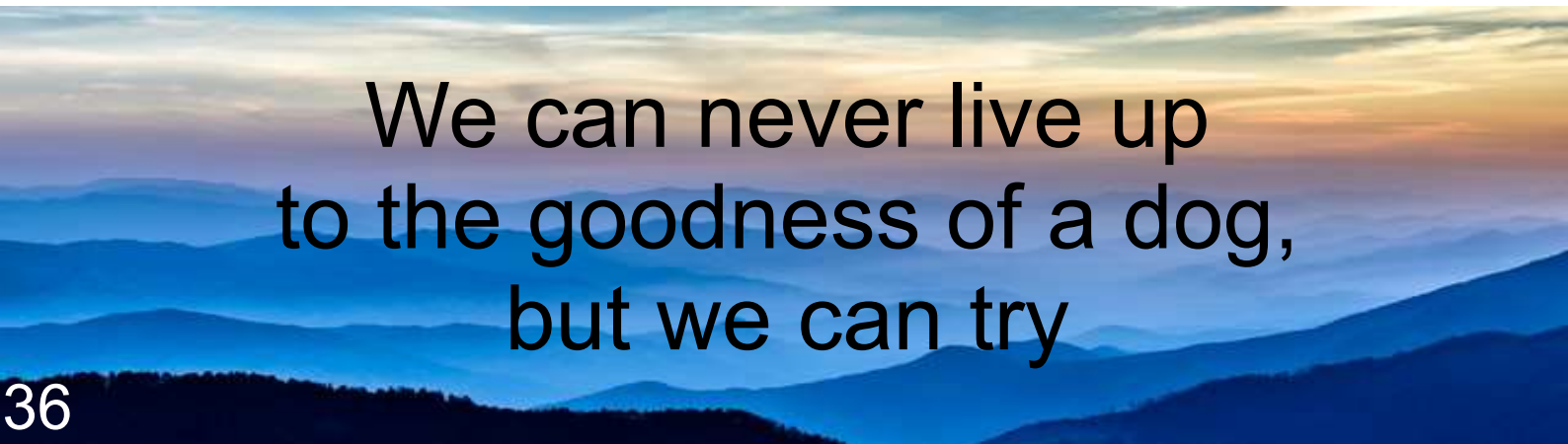
As long as your dog's body language is saying all good things, there's no reason to stop doling out leg-kick-worthy belly rubs. Watch their facial features every time you do it, and remember dogs reserve the right to change their minds. They might have liked it yesterday, but that doesn't mean they'll feel the same tomorrow.

For some dogs, it depends on how hard or how fast you scratch. They might enjoy a light tickle that gets their leg twitching, but many people try to get their dogs' legs moving as fast as possible. They scratch harder and more vigorously, and that's when a belly rub can shift from being fun to irritating. It can even be painful, like when someone tickles you in your extra ticklish spot and doesn't stop.

The condition of your dog's skin should also be a factor in your decision to rub the belly or not. Dogs with sensitive skin or skin allergies are usually more susceptible to skin irritations. Wag! says, "Those [dogs] that are already itchy, like dogs with allergies, may be more inclined to kick. It's a good idea to pay attention to your dog's skin, which should be clear and smooth. Redness, dryness, or rash can be indicators that your dog has sensitive skin allergies."

Scratching your dog's already-itchy skin might sound like you're doing them a favour, but it's usually a bad idea. Scratching could make their condition worse and inflame the skin even after you walk away.

Even if you didn't know your dog's leg kicks were due to an involuntary reflex, you're the one that knows them best. If they have a habit of inviting you to rub their belly, they most likely know what they're getting themselves into. The only problem with belly rubs is if you're not correctly translating their body language.



We can never live up
to the goodness of a dog,
but we can try

THE CANINE BILL OF RIGHTS

Carolyn Krause

- I have the right to give and receive unconditional love
- I have the right to a life that is beyond mere survival
- I have a right to a rich, stimulating environment
- I have the right to be trained and the chance to learn new skills so I do not become the prisoner of my own misbehaviour
- I have a right to ongoing veterinary care and a comprehensive assessment for behaviour problems; if behaviour problems are to be addressed, a competent person must be involved
- I have the right to adequate food
- I have the right to socialise with people and dogs outside of my family
- I have the right to have my needs and wants respected
- I have the right to special time with my people
- I have the right to only be bred responsibly - if at all
- I have the right to some time and space all my own
- I have the right to be foolish and silly, and to make my person laugh
- I have the right to earn my person's trust and to be trusted in return
- I have the right to be forgiven
- I have the right to die with dignity

We should treat our dogs the way we'd like to be treated



Denise Scarrot



Miya

LET ME EXPLAIN WHY I BECOME AGITATED ON A DAILY BASIS

Aaron Short

HUMAN

- * Has approximately 1 billion neurons in their brain
- * Given two plus years to accomplish potty training.
- * Gives human babies pain relievers and various numbing agents to help appease the pain of teething
- * Encourages young humans to run and play with endless forms of mental and physical stimulation
- * Given 20 plus years to complete an education and become a productive member of society
- * Given sick and personal days from work and endless excuses for poor performance
- * Expects a pay raise annually for the job they perform

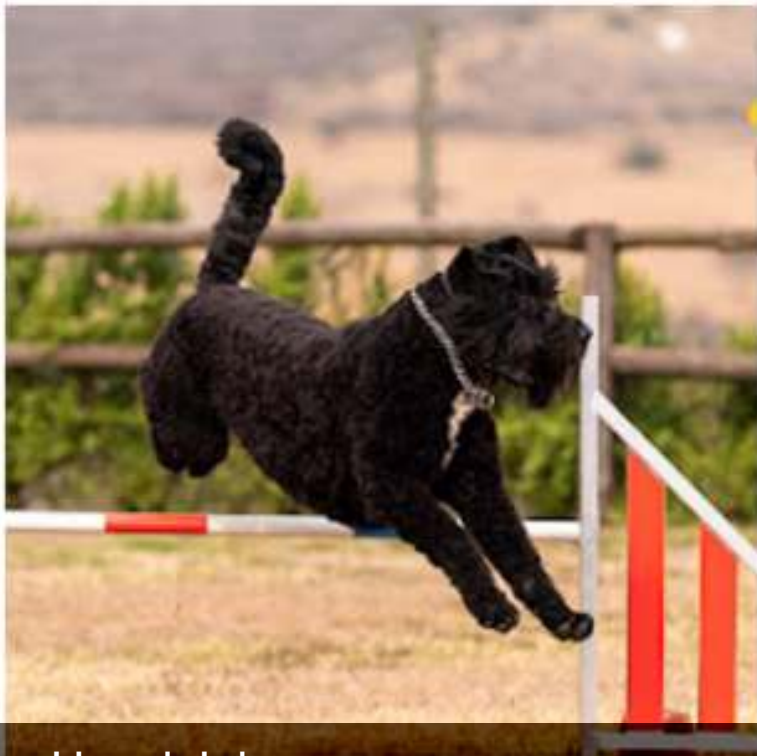
CANINE

- * Has approximately 500 million
- * Human wants canine potty trained in two weeks or they will have to re-home the dog....Please take the diaper off your eight month old human and let them crawl around your floor, lets just see the results....
- * Demands Dog Trainer tells them how to reprimand their dog for chewing
- * "I have got to teach this dog to calm down!!!"
- * Expected to behave flawlessly after 6 weeks of training
- * Expected to perform perfectly 365 days a year with no questions asked. Canines are also not allowed to feel bad or forget
- * Humans demand their dog perform more every year and don't believe they should reward the dog for the work they perform

Dear human.... If you don't train, don't complain

We have this idea behaviour should just flow like a fountain. The reality is, behaviour is a tool animals use to manipulate the environment to get consequences that are going to help them make a living in the world. We can capitalise on that system or we can ignore it at our peril. And part of the way we ignore it is this insistence, this stubborn, entitled, human insistence that he should just do it. And that, is just a BIG myth."

- Jean Donaldson



Hazel Johnson



BooBear



SIX ESSENTIAL COMMANDS TO TEACH YOUR DOG (AND HOW)

Sullin Jose

Like furry strong-willed children, dogs often seem to have a mind of their own. But you can keep them safe and happy with a little patience, love, and training. Start by teaching your dog some basic commands.

Basic Training: What to Know Before You Start

Before you get down to business, it's important to set your dog up for success. You should:

Find a calm, quiet place to train your dog before testing out commands in public.

Consider your dog's personality and take an individualized approach to training them.

Be consistent with the any language and gestures you use for each command.

Stick to a schedule as much as possible, but keep the training sessions short and simple.

Be patient with your dog throughout the training process.

Use positive reinforcement and reward your dog for their progress.

Make it fun and play along with your dog while teaching them new commands.

How Long Does It Take to Teach Basic Dog Commands?

That's up to your dog, but in general, think of obedience training as a marathon, not a sprint. Some of the basic commands can be learned in a matter of days or weeks.

Essential Dog Commands To Start With

See if you can get your dog to obey these basic commands — and remember, some tricks may be easier to teach than others.

1. Watch Me

This command is a great place to start because it teaches your dog to obey your commands. It can also serve as a good way to reset, should the training sessions get unruly or "get away from you," so to speak. Establish eye contact, and use a treat to guide the dog's attention from their nose to your face, adding the phrase "watch me" or "look at me" to the motion.

2. Sit

It doesn't get more basic than the "sit" command. Using a treat, start by putting it near the dog's nose and then slowly lifting the treat away at an angle. Ideally, the dog will lower their flank until they are in the seated position. Say the "sit" command, and repeat the exercise until the dog has learned and understands the command. Throw in some extra love and affection when they get it right — your pup deserves it.

3. Stay

The "stay" command is important in every setting, but is especially useful outside and when a dog is off leash. It can help to teach your dog to sit first, and then use the sit command to prep your dog to learn how to stay.

Hold an open palm out and slowly back away from the dog a few steps at a time. This one may take a little effort because your dog's instinct will be to follow you — don't worry if it takes a while for them to figure it out. Start with a few steps at first, and reward them with a treat when they have mastered the ability to stay until called. Gradually increase the distance and wait time as they get more disciplined and learn to understand and obey the command.

4. Come (Here)

Whether you're calling them in from the yard, another room, or a potentially awkward encounter at the dog park, teaching a dog to come when you call should be a priority for every dog owner. To get started, put your dog on a leash and stand at a distance, but down at their level. While holding a treat (see a pattern here?), say the "come here" command to call the dog towards you while using the leash to gently guide them in your direction. Once they arrive, feed them the treat and acknowledge their brilliance.

This command has two parts: Once you are confident that the dog has mastered the command on leash, remove the leash to test if they can still obey the command. Repeat as needed until successful.

5. Down

The "down" command is a submissive action, which can be more challenging to teach. Start with a delicious-smelling treat and hold it in a closed fist. Place your hand at the dog's snout to let them pick up the scent, and then bring the hand to the ground. When the dog comes to the ground, drag your fist slowly towards you so that the dog moves towards you in a crawl position. Once they've met you, say the command, offer up the treat, and throw a little praise their way.

6. Drop It

From shoes, to stuffed animals, to stolen pork chops from your dinner plate, your dog needs to know when to let go of an object. It's also important from a safety standpoint, to prevent your dog from picking up or eating something that can be harmful to their health.

The easiest way to approach the "drop it" or "leave it" command is through the old bait and switch. Holding a treat in each hand (closed fists). Then instruct your dog to leave what's in your right hand, using the left hand as a reward. Be sure to withhold the treat from your left hand until the dog has fully backed away from the treat in your right hand.

Stick With It

Once your dog has mastered one command, move on to the next — your dog is likely ready and willing to keep the training going.

"Dog training is not just for puppies. It's an ongoing process to build good behaviour throughout the dog's lifetime," adds Christie Branch, professional dog trainer at Paw Commons in San Diego, California

QUICK & EASY TIPS FOR AN AMAZING, RELIABLE RECALL

Emily Dustan, See Spot Learn

Teaching your dog to come when called is probably one of the most important things you can train as it can save their life, and get them out of a potentially harmful situation.

ALWAYS call your dog in a happy tone! Praise and reward your dog with the highest value of treats you have. For your dog to learn to come when called, a recall needs to be incredibly rewarding.

NEVER EVER punish or scold your dog for coming when called. It does not matter what your dog has done. If you punish/ shout/ scold, or scare your dog for coming to you, then you become unsafe and unpredictable which will reduce your chances of having a reliable recall. I would want my dog to come to me out of excitement rather than fear of a consequence if he/ she doesn't come. Try not to call your dog when he/ she is not likely to come. Don't only call your dog when you want to leave a place, or when they are doing something you don't like. Practise calling your dog randomly when he/ she is doing something they like or are interested in, give a huge reward and let your dog go back to what he/ she was doing.

Engage in your dog's natural desire to chase. Randomly call your dog from across the garden. As your dog looks at you, begin to run backwards away from your dog. Happily praise your dog as he/ she starts to move towards you and show that you have treats. As your dog gets to you immediately jackpot.

Another way of a recall is having treats ready in your hand and call your dog. As your dog comes to you place a treat on the floor and run away in a different direction and calling him/ her. As your dog finishes eating the first treat you placed on the floor, he will run to you. Again, as he is running to you, place another treat on the floor. Repeat the process a couple of times. - Call - place treat on the ground- dog comes to you, eats treat - run different direction - repeat

Build your criteria up slowly. Start in your house by calling your dog from another room. Get a friend or family member to hold your dog while you run to another room and play 'hide and seek'. Then practice recalls in your garden. Once you start practising in a park, make sure you do it at a quiet time of the day where you are less likely to have lots of distractions of other dogs etc...

Have your dog on a long line so you feel a bit safer and more in control in case something happens. Ask a friend or family member to help and stand a couple of feet away from each other facing one another. Take turns calling the dog, praise and treat with high-value treats. Gradually increase the distance between you and your friend/ family member.

WHAT ARE "DECOMPRESSION" ACTIVITIES FOR DOGS, AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Adrienne's Dog Training School

"Decompression"- this term is being utilized more and more as owners look for ways to de-stress their canine companions. But what are decompression activities, and what are their benefits?

What is Decompression?

The act or process of releasing from pressure.

A state of relief from pressure; a return to normalcy after a stressful period or situation.

Essentially, engaging in decompression activities allows your dogs to get back to a calm, balanced state of mind. A form of decompression commonly recognised is the "decompression period" professionals recommend to owners when they bring home a new dog. However, new arrivals are not the only canines to benefit from decompression periods and games.

After all, consider Decompression as a way to give your dog a "sigh of relief"; a way to relax, to obtain a good headspace, and be at ease. That sounds good for just about everyone, right? We think so!

Aside from decompression periods, there are also a wide variety of enrichment games that are considered decompression worthy for our pets. These activities lower stress levels, release serotonin into your dog's brain, and according to scientists: improve the overall animal welfare of pet dogs.

Recognising Signs of Stress

A key to knowing when a decompression activity may be beneficial for your pet is recognising signs of stress. Malcom Weir (DVM, MSc, MPH) states that some common signs of stress in dogs include:

Pacing

Shaking

Whining/Barking

Yawning

Drooling Licking

Panting

Changes in eyes and ears (i.e. "whale eye")

Changes in body posture (like tail tucking)

Identifying these signs of stress can help you assess when and if a decompression activity would be beneficial for your dog. An example of this is seeing your dog's initial stress signs on a walk, and opting to do a quick decompression "food scatter" to lower your dog's arousal.

Decompression Activities

Decompression or "Sniffy" Walks

Decompression walks, Sniffy Walks, Sniffaris - whatever you might call them, they're fantastic. A decompression walk is essentially a walk where your dog has freedom of movement to explore their environment. Usually done in a safe, low-traffic space - decompression walks can be done off leash (in off leash safe areas), or via a long lead attached to a harness.

Scatter Feeding

You may think, "This is easy... a little too easy!". I'm here to tell you that this activity is low effort for maximum reward. Simply take a portion of your dogs meals (or treats), scatter them in your home or yard, and allow your dog's foraging instincts to take over. It weaves into the Contra-freeloading concept, which reveals that dogs love (and often prefer) the act of "working" for their food. Scatter feeding can also be used on walks to redirect fearful, reactive, or stress-related behaviours.

Snuffle/Foraging Activities

While Scatter Feeding technically falls under this category, there are so many other ways to incorporate snuffle and foraging activities into your dog's decompression routine. Some suggestions:

Snuffle Mats Towel Puzzles

Sensory Boxes Licking Enrichment

Another option when it comes to calming enrichment, is enrichment that involves the act of licking. The act of licking can help calm most canines, and as a result - licking enrichment options have taken off in the current market. Take a bucket lid or muffin tin, smear it with broth, peanut butter, anything yummy and freeze it for an easy DIY.

Overview

To close, decompression activities offer a sense of stress-relieving outlets for our furry friends. By offering these activities at the opportune moments, it allows our dogs to come back to a neutral headspace where they can be content and at ease.



SHOW RESULTS

(1)	QUINERA WORKING & HERDING JUDGE: MR J VAN RIJSWIJK BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu 4th Herding Group	07.08.2021 Mrs E Hodgson
(1)	EAST LONDON KENNEL CLUB 1 JUDGE: MR K YOUNG BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu 4th Herding Group	07.08.2021 Mrs E Hodgson
(1)	EAST LONDON KENNEL CLUB 2 JUDGE: MR A SHEASBY BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu	07.08.2021 Mrs E Hodgson
(1)	QUEENSTOWN KENNEL CLUB JUDGE: MRS N ROBETSON BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu 2nd Herding Group	07.08.2021 Mrs E Hodgson
(1)	PORT REX KENNEL CLUB JUDGE: PROF N NICOLAU BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu Winner Herding Group	08.08.2021 Mrs E Hodgson
(1)	GRAHAMSTOWN KENNEL CLUB JUDGE: MR J WARREN BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu	02.09.2021 Mrs E Hodgson
(1)	UITENHAGE KENNEL CLUB JUDGE: DR R EHRLICH BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu	02.09..2021 Mrs E Hodgson
(1)	BAAKENS VALLEY WORKING & HERDING JUDGE: MR R CLARK BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu 3RD Herding Group	03.09.2021 Mrs E Hodgson
(1)	PORT ELIZABETH KENNEL CLUB JUDGE: MRS P GUILD BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu 4TH Herding Group	04.09.2021 Mrs E Hodgson

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| (1) | WALMER & SUBURBAN KENNEL CLUB | 04.09.2021 |
| | JUDGE: MR J DE ABREU MARQUES | |
| | BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu | Mrs E Hodgson |
| (1) | HERDING CLUB OF E CAPE 05.09.2021 | |
| | JUDGE: MRS C BUITENDACH | |
| | BOB Ch.AMOR Julia van Dafzicht of Lepoilu | Mrs E Hodgson |
| | | |
| | OBEDIENCE | |
| | GOLDFIELDS KENNEL CLUB | 18.08.2021 |
| | JUDGE: DR H RAMSEY | |
| | NOVICE RALLYDOGS Ch.Lepoilu Esmee | 90% |

POINTS SYSTEM

- | | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------|----|
| 1. | D | Ch.AMOR Juila van Dafzicht | 85 |
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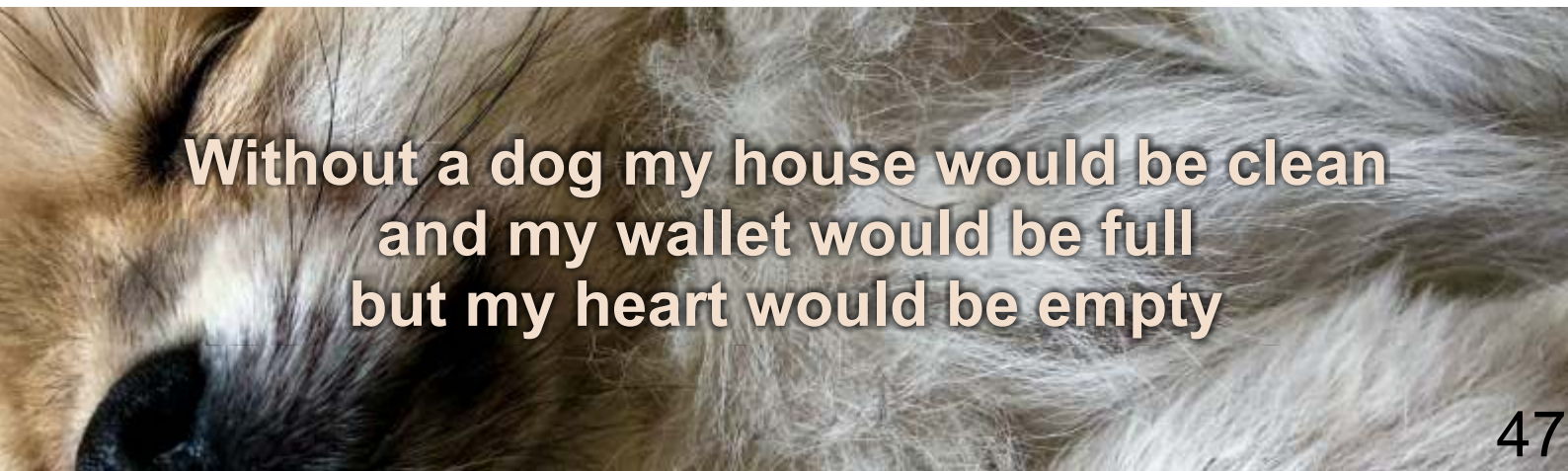


Aura - Forever in my rear view mirror - Barry Schönfeldt

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BOUVIER DES FLANDRES FOR EVERYBODY TO KNOW

by Jessica Evans

- Bouvier des Flandres is one of the most impressive breeds of dogs which is well known for its quiet, good and pleasant nature.
- The Bouvier des Flandres is a breed of dog that originated in Flanders
- They have a sterling character, a huge heart, and keen intelligence
- This dog is not considered fully grown until the age of two or three years.
- They usually have low tendency to snore and low tendency to bark
- This Bouvier des Flandres dog has a rough outer coat and also a dense undercoat
- The dog's elaborate coat requires grooming at least weekly
- The Bouvier's rugged double coat sheds a surprisingly scant amount.
- Their head looks adorable and cute with soft hairy beard, mustache and shaggy eyebrows
- The tail of this dog is no longer docked
- Bouvier des Flandres dogs are very calm and docile
- These Bouvier des Flandres dogs can get really good with other animals if raised along with them
- He will be loyal to its family and be an excellent watchdog
- This dog is not very active inside the home
- The Bouvier des Flandres should sleep at least for one or two hours after every meal
- This breed is considered as the best family friendly dog
- Compared to other dogs, Bouvier des Flandres dogs are very easy to train
- Once taught, a Bouvier will never forget a command
- Bouviers love to stay active, but also bore easily and like to be challenged.
- A bored Bouvier can be a very destructive one
- The breed's versatility allows them to do myriad tasks
- They are large and strong, but are surprisingly graceful



**Without a dog my house would be clean
and my wallet would be full
but my heart would be empty**

LAST WAG OF THE TAIL

The 70-year-old Francis Romero was in a coma in the hospital. His dog was allowed to stay with him, did not break day and night. After a month he woke up from the coma with the words: "Where is the angel who constantly whispered that everything would be all right?"

I think that animals aren't less intelligent than humans, they're just of a different intelligence. We have five million smell-sensitive cells in our nose, they have two hundred and fifty million - they can smell emotion. They can smell different types of emotion, they just have another type of intelligence. - Mike Mills

A favourite story among colour-film processors concerns the negative of a poodle which a woman sent to a photo-finishing lab. When the print was made, the dog came out looking green. Figuring that there must have been a mistake in the colour balance, a problem which plagues colour processors, the lab tried again and again, and finally got the dog to come out a kind of improbable tan.

The woman who sent in the negative was furious when she got the picture of the tan poodle, which, she informed the lab, she had dyed green.

Each morning at 5:30, I take my Lhasa Apso, Maxwell, for a walk. He has the bad habit of picking up bits of paper or other trash along the way. When he does, I command him to "drop it," and he usually complies. One morning, though, he absolutely refused to drop a piece of litter. So I told him to "sit" and then approached him to see what his treasure was. It was a \$10 bill.

The animals we have in our lives teach us more about ourselves than we will ever care to admit. They share our elation and our despondency, they travel that journey in all of its ups and downs, and then enlighten us with wisdom - Noel Fitzpatrick

My law partner was presenting a no-fault divorce case to an Ohio domestic-relations court. The couple involved had no children, but they did have a dog, of whom both were very fond.

My partner stated that both parties agreed to share whatever medical expenses might be necessary for the care of the animal. They also agreed that the wife would have custody, but that the husband would be allowed visitation rights.

The judge, looking somewhat startled, peered down at the husband and asked, "Is this true?"

The husband replied, "Yes, Your Honour."

"Well," intoned the judge, with a trace of a smile on his face, "you should know that there is nothing this court can do for you if the dog refuses to see you."