

BOUVIER DES FLANDRES CLUB

GOLDEN REEF

November 2023

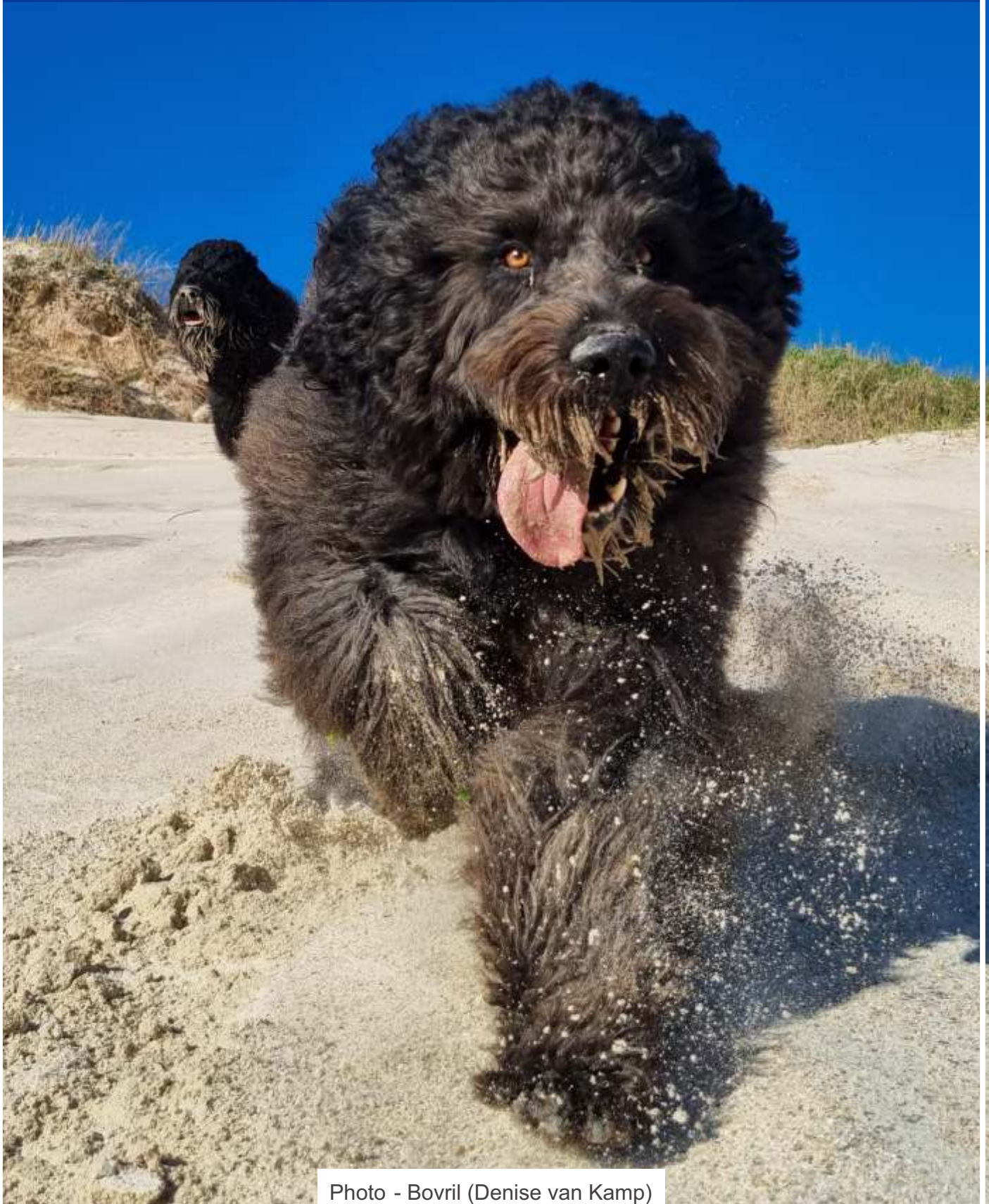


Photo - Bovril (Denise van Kamp)

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LETTER FROM THE CLUB COMMITTEE

Dear Members,

I am sure everyone is welcoming the change to more comfortable temperatures since our last magazine in August. It did sometimes feel as though this winter would never end! Talking of weather and to update you from our last magazine issue, we have applied for a permanent change to our show date to early August in the hopes that both dogs and humans can be comfortable in the prevailing temperatures in Gauteng at that time of year. KUSA have formally approved this so for 2024, please mark 11 August in your diaries to either compete with your dogs or to support your Club - ideally both!

At a previous committee meeting, we decided to dispose of most of the Club trophies. They currently take up a lot of space and completely fill the Club trailer which has been standing at Frik Bezuidenhoudt's home for a few years. It is sadly evident that we are unlikely to hold any conformation shows again because of a lack of interest in breed showing by Bouvier owners, including our own membership. Also, KUSA rules specify a certain minimum number of entries (20) of registered dogs for a championship show, and we were last able to get this sort of entry in 2010. During the last quarter, Liz Hodgson has been contacting donors of our Club trophies where these individuals are traceable to find out whether they would like their trophies back or whether we can dispose of them. This is in terms of our constitution. We hasten to add that it does not imply imminent closure of the Club but we do need to be realistic about the impracticality of hanging on to material assets which create a storage problem and deemed it best to tackle this while donors are still known to the committee and can be traced. This exercise is now drawing to a conclusion and those of you who would like your trophies back have been noted and will be contacted. In contacting past and present members about this, it is evident that many people have fond memories of their times working for and competing in the Bouvier Club events and there is a sadness about this disposal that many of us feel. Our Club history is engraved on many of the trophies.

Our individual Bouvier news is rather sad again. Tanja Gomes said a sad and sudden farewell to Mika in July (apologies for this omission in the August magazine) and Magda was just as distraught to lose Amie within hours in early September. Rolien van Greuning has also just said a last heartbroken goodbye to Bella. All of these dogs were a couple of years short of the "normal" age at which a large dog usually dies, so in addition to the grief, there is also a measure of feeling cheated out of their last years during which one slowly accepts that they are aging. We extend our sympathies to all of you and know how much the loss hurts.

Unusually, there is absolutely no Bouvier competition news from anyone this quarter so this will be a short-ish letter and we will fill you in on the human news instead!

We congratulate Chantal Bezuidenhoudt on her forthcoming marriage to Marius Kruger in December and wish both of them a happy future together.

Hazel Johnson is recovering from shoulder surgery after two friends' dogs knocked her off her feet. Hang in there Hazel, and life will look up again even though there are challenges at present to get back to the activity levels that you love! Our best wishes for continued healing.

Liz Hodgson's Bouviers have recently produced a litter of eleven puppies and by the time we have the February magazine, we hope to see photos of them with their new owners. They will be leaving for their future homes in November.

Please tell any Bouvier owners you meet about the Club and the Bouvier Fun Facebook Group - they are welcome to both. If anyone would like an application form for a potential new member, again please contact Liz Hodgson.

Denise would be very happy to get any news from our members that she can use to give subsequent magazines that local touch via Members' Memoirs and please remember that Barry is pleased to receive photos for possible inclusion in the electronic magazine via our special email address bouvpics@schonfeldt.co.za. Kindly 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 and please write to us about your Bouvs for the next magazine.

The Committee

**You're never friendless,
ever,
if you have a dog**



**Have
you
hugged
your
Bouv
today?**

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

One. The smallest whole number but which can have the biggest impact. It can mean the difference between winning and losing as the country has come to experience first hand in the last few weeks. The Proteas winning their cricket match against Pakistan in the Cricket World Cup by one wicket and then the Springboks triumphing over France, England and finally New Zealand by a single point in their last three Rugby World Cup matches. If these feats have taught us anything it's that one must never give up no matter how hopeless things may seem. This can be extrapolated to working with our dogs, too.

Who of us who work with our beloved pets have not felt that we sometimes hit a brick wall? Commands or cues that we are convinced our dog knows backwards suddenly become totally mysterious to them. Exercises that are done perfectly one week, are completely botched the following. Just like our teams have to adapt to various playing conditions, venues and opposition by practicing under those different conditions, so our dogs have to be exposed to familiar commands under varying circumstances, known as generalising behaviours, something which does not come easily or naturally to our pets. I have seen this first hand with all of my dogs and it makes one realise that we do them no favours when we only work in one part of the garden/field/park whatever because if we do, as soon as we change the picture it's like starting all over again. This is why pups that listen to you at home, suddenly seem to develop an embarrassing selective deafness when told to sit or down when out at a coffee shop or refuse to heel when walking on lead in a strange location or seem to fall apart when in the Obedience ring. The more we can vary the places we do training with our dogs, the more likely they are to adapt when out and about or in competitions. They never give up on us. We must never give up on them.

I have included an article on Distemper in this issue. There has been a major outbreak of this awful but totally preventable disease in Brakpan on the East Rand, so much so that suppliers of vet products were not even delivering stock to the vets there last week. I'm sure its preaching to the converted, but please check the SA Veterinary Association guidelines (<https://www.sava.co.za>) but don't over vaccinate your dog.

Who of you have been to Namaqualand, garden of the gods, during flower season? It's been on my bucket list for a long time, especially the northern part, having seen the south around Suldana some years ago. Needing to be in Stilbaai for a family wedding, a friend agreed to accompany me on a somewhat

round about trip in September. What an experience. It's hard, no impossible, to put into words the amazing sight of acre upon acre of colours stretching as far as the eye can see. Truly one of God's greatest spectacles.

What a roller coaster of weather we've had these past few days! Last week we were under a weather watch with warnings of sustained abnormally high temperatures well into the 30s and a prolonged heat wave. Fast forward to yesterday and over night the weather watch changed to a warning of abnormally low temperatures of under 10 degrees, heavy rain, hail and even snow in some areas. Miya has even taken up her winter sleeping position on the bed which she had abandoned for her summer spot on the floor. I have pressed my trusty hot water bottle back into service. And of course people have been complaining on Social Media about the unseasonable cold. I'm sure it will be of short duration and they will soon be complaining once more about the heat and lack of rain!

And so we near the end of yet another year. 2023 seems to have just started and it's already almost done so all that remains is to wish all a blessed Christmas and Hanukkah and a wonderful 2024



Hazel Johnson | BooBear

THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND THE DOG

Christmas Short Story
by RL Williams

"Only three trees left," Andy thought as he looked at the almost barren Christmas tree lot.

A middle aged couple with a small child entered the lot and looked around at the remaining trees.

"I remember them," Joey told Andy as he noticed the couple and little girl.

"Yes," Andy replied. "They come by every year and look around. They haven't bought a tree in several years though."

"Hello, and welcome to our Christmas tree sale," Joey stated.

"We're just looking," the woman said.

"Mommy, I like this one," the little girl said, pointing to a tall but skinny tree.

"That's a nice Christmas tree, Abby," the woman replied.

"We can make you a really good deal on it since it looks like this will be the last night we will be here this year," Joey offered.

"No, that's ok," the father replied.

Another older man had entered the lot and stood next to them, looking at the trees.

"Mommy, could we get a tree this year?" Abby asked.

"No dear, maybe next year," the mother replied.

"You always say next year," Abby replied.

"Now, Abby," the father said, "be thankful for what you have."

"Ok," Abby answered.

Another couple selected a tree and paid Joey for it.

"Wow, only two trees left," Joey observed as it was nearing 8 o'clock and getting colder.

Andy approached the other man on the lot looking at the two remaining trees.

"Welcome back," Andy said, recognizing the man from last year. "Tony, isn't it?"

"Hello, yes, I'm Tony," the man replied. "I need to get a tree for the retirement home."

"Pick out the tree you want and we will make you a super deal," Andy smiled.

"I want to wait until that couple picks out their tree," Tony said, looking at Abby and her mother and father. "I don't want to take one the little girl wants."

"Oh, they are not buying a tree. They come by every year just to look," Andy continued. "Must be some sort of Christmas tradition with them."

After a few minutes, the couple and little girl left and walked down the street.

"That's really sad," Joey said. "I talked to that couple with the little girl and they told me they have not been able to afford a Christmas tree for several years. Some expensive family medical problems."

"They live two streets over in the old Smith house," Joey continued. "They also lost the little girl's dog to cancer a couple of months ago. So sad."

"Doesn't look like it will be a good Christmas for them," Andy sighed. After a few moments of silence and staring at the two remaining Christmas trees, Andy and Tony looked at each other as if a light had gone off.

"I have an idea," both Andy and Tony spoke at the same time.

"I am buying both trees," Tony said. "One tree is going to the retirement home and the other tree is going to that couple and little girl."

"I'm not going to charge you for the trees," Andy offered.

"Nope, I am going to pay you for the trees, I insist," Tony countered. "You work hard out here every year. But you can help me deliver it."

"Ok," Andy answered. "Joey, you want to help?"

"Of course," Joey replied.

"One condition," Tony asked. "We will tell them you are giving it to them."

"Deal," Andy said.

"I have one stop to make before we take the tree over there. I will be back in about 45 minutes," Tony said as he gave Andy payment for the two trees. Andy and Joey got the trees ready for loading and then began to close up the tree lot for the year.

Not quite an hour later, Tony returned.

Andy and Joey loaded the two trees into the back of the truck.

Joey heard an unexpected sound.

"Ruff, ruff, ruff," came from something in the back seat.

"Ah," Joey remarked as he glanced in the back seat and saw a pet carrier crate with a cute face staring at him, "a doggie."

"I have a friend who works at the animal shelter," Tony said. "I called her up and she came down and opened up the shelter and we found this nice dog that would be perfect for the little girl if her parents are ok with it."

"Looks like you have been shopping too," Andy noticed, looking at the large bag of dog related items in a pet store logo-ed bag.

The three of them and the little dog headed off to the house where Joey said the couple and little girl lived.

"That's it, that's the house," Joey said a short time later.

They parked in front of the house and walked up to the front door and rang the doorbell.

The door opened and the father of the little girl they had seen earlier at the tree lot stood before them.

"Hi, I'm Andy from the Christmas tree lot you visited earlier tonight," he said.

"Yes, I remember you," the father replied. "What can I do for you?"

"Well, I have a problem and I was wondering if you could help me with it," Andy explained.

"It's like this," Andy began, "we have the last two Christmas trees from the tree lot in the truck. We are taking one tree to the retirement home for their Christmas Eve decorating party and that leaves one tree without a home for the holidays."

"You see," Tony added, "Andy thinks of his trees as his children and he needs to find a good holiday home for it and we were hoping you could help us out."

"Abby, come here," the father spoke out. "These men from the Christmas tree lot

were wondering if we could take care of one of their trees for the holidays,” the father explained.

“Wow,” Abby said excitedly, sporting a big smile. “Yes, please, can we take it?”

“I think we can handle that,” the father said. “We will have to get the tree decorations and lights out of the closet. Those boxes have not been opened in quite a while.”

“Great,” Andy replied.

“We have two trees in the truck and how about you pick out which one you like?” Andy said, kneeling down in front of Abby.

“Ok!” Abby replied enthusiastically.

All of them headed out to the truck so Abby could pick one of the trees.

Abby excitedly decided on a tree and Joey took it into the house with Abby in tow.

“I have one other problem,” Tony explained to the mother and father. “I have this dog that I got from the animal shelter that needs a home. It has all vet bills covered for the next year and also all dog food and treats from the pet store are covered for the next year. I would hate for that to go to waste. Is there any way that you or Abby could help us with a home for this dog?”

Tony took the dog out of the crate and showed the dog to them.

“Oh, it’s so cute,” the mother said.

“Seems like a nice doggie,” the father added.

Abby’s mother and father talked it over for about a minute.

“Yes, we would be happy to give the little guy a home,” the father said.

“Ok,” the mother said, tearing up a bit. “Abby lost her dog earlier this year and there was no way we could get another one and afford the expenses of a dog right now.”

“Well, as I said, all vet bills and dog food and treat costs are covered for a year at least. It’s part of the ...” Tony paused for a moment, “it’s part of the Christmas Pet Program.”

“Abby is going to be so surprised and happy,” the mother smiled. “First a Christmas tree and now a dog.”

Tony put the dog back in its crate and got the bag from the pet store.

Abby’s mother and father took the crate and bag of pet supplies to the front porch.

“Ruff, ruff, ruff,” the small crated dog began to make his presence known.

Abby came out the front door and noticed where the barking was coming from.

“Whose doggie is this?” Abby asked.

“He is yours if you want him,” Abby’s father replied.

“Really! Mine! Yes, I want him!” Abby exclaimed.

Everyone went inside the house and the front door closed.

Abby opened the door to the crate and the dog quickly came out and ran around and then came back to Abby, giving her puppy kisses.

“I think it’s a match,” Tony observed.

“Hey, you need to give him a name,” Tony suggested to Abby.

“How about ...” Abby thought for a moment, “I know, I’ll call him Happy, because that’s the way he makes me feel.”

“That sounds like a great name,” Tony agreed.

The father found their Christmas tree stand and Joey helped straighten and secure the tree.

Andy and Tony watched as Abby took turns marvelling at the undecorated Christmas tree and playing with her new friend, Happy.

“I do believe we have Christmas cheer here,” Andy smiled.

“Well, we have to be going,” Tony said as he approached the mother and father.

“We have one more stop to make. We are taking the other tree to the retirement home tonight.”

While Abby was playing with Happy, everyone else headed to the front door.

“Thank you so much for the Christmas tree and for the dog,” Abby’s father said graciously. “It wasn’t going to be much of a Christmas for Abby this year, but now it will be the best Christmas in quite a while,” Abby’s mother said.

Abby comes over with Happy following close behind.

“Are you Santa?” Abby asked Tony.

“No,” Tony replied with a smile. “But in a way, you are like Santa because you will be giving Happy a nice home and I am sure it will now be a great Christmas for him.”

Abby beamed with a big grin.

“Oh, I almost forgot,” Tony remembered, handing Abby’s mother an envelope.

“Here is the special card and certificate for the vet costs and pet food for a year from the pet store.”

“Wait, we almost forgot this too,” Andy said, handing the couple a green envelope. “This is to be used for any other expenses the dog may have, or for anything else ...”

“Part of the Christmas Pet Program,” Tony interrupted.

“That’s right,” Andy confirmed, “the Christmas Pet Program.”

“Thank you so much,” Abby’s mother said.

“No, thank you for helping us out,” Tony replied.

Andy, Joey, and Tony walk away down the sidewalk.

Tony turns to Andy.

“That green envelope you gave them had the money I paid you for the two trees didn’t it?” Tony asked.

Andy smiled.

“The Christmas Pet Program? I have never heard of it before,” Andy asked.

“Dog and food and treats and vet costs covered for a year? When did that program start?”

Tony smiled and replied, “Tonight.”

“Ok, Santa,” Andy laughed, responding to Tony.

“Next stop the retirement home,” Tony replied.

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL HOMEGROWN FEEL-GOOD STORY

Blue Hills Vet

One Christmas Day, Chris Begbie and therapy dog Indigo, were asked to visit a Paediatric unit, and, when in the hospital, a nurse came forward and begged them please to come to ICU - a retired veterinary colleague of ours had been in an induced coma and wasn't waking up. Indigo went to his limp hand at the side of the bed, nudged and bumped it until he started responding, started stroking her, and awoke fully, engaging in full conversation with his tearful wife at his beside and all in attendance in ICU. Plenty tears and the best Christmas gift ever.

Thank you Chris for your commitment, and to Indigo - we love you and your special magic



Haly | Sonette de Jager

MEMBERS' MEMOIRS

BOUBEAR AND YOGI - The Final Chapter

Jackie Pitts

Life for the boys has slowly settled down to a new kind of normal. They still miss running on the beach but we will soon remedy that as we have found some new dog friendly beaches nearby.

Life also became boring when Mom had to have 3 shoulder operations – most probably caused by BouBear lunging on the lead trying to chase monkeys! Walks became few and far between and car rides the new treat. We also started exploring all the local dog parks. You book online for an hour and have the park to yourselves. We started at Rock Rabbit Field which is out near Knockando. The owner previously had a pack of huskies and needed to develop a track where they could run and pull sleds. The Boys enjoyed the freedom of jumping out of the boot and being able to run non-stop for an hour. That was until their Dad discovered a marshy patch in one of the corners of the park which resulted in 2 very muddy bouvs!

We then started looking further afield and found Purity Paws Pooch Park which became our new favourite. It was out in the middle of the Cabrach where the Boys could have close up encounters with Highland Coos and the local sheep – they were separated by a wire fence! We let the Boys run wild for the first half hour to get rid of all their pent up energy and then start working the agility course with them. BouBear is fearless and went from zero to hero after ten minutes but Yogi is far more cautious and it took him a while to do the most basic movements. But slowly he is improving and we have to bear in mind that he is a really big dog. Being a rescue, we sometimes joke about him having a dash of Irish Wolfhound in him!

From next weekend the Boys are starting Sociability Classes where they go out with other dogs and a trainer to markets, sport events etc just to get used to people being in close proximity to them. Here, everyone takes their dogs everywhere and although they are fairly good on their leads, they do need to get used to crowds. After the local Scottish Games we went home to fetch the Boys to go and watch 'Beat the Retreat' down the high street but it didn't take us long to realise that they weren't fans of bagpipes and the drums were a tad too loud for their sensitive ears. They definitely won't be joining us at The Memorial (Poppy) Day parade in a couple of weeks time!

An interesting fact about where we live is that we get 20% discount on their dog food as they are classified as 'working' dogs and we live in a farming community. The only working Yogi does is laying and watching his flock all day and running inside to 'tell' us if there is anything wrong with any of them. He was pretty devastated when 'his' lambs turned 6 months and were taken away –

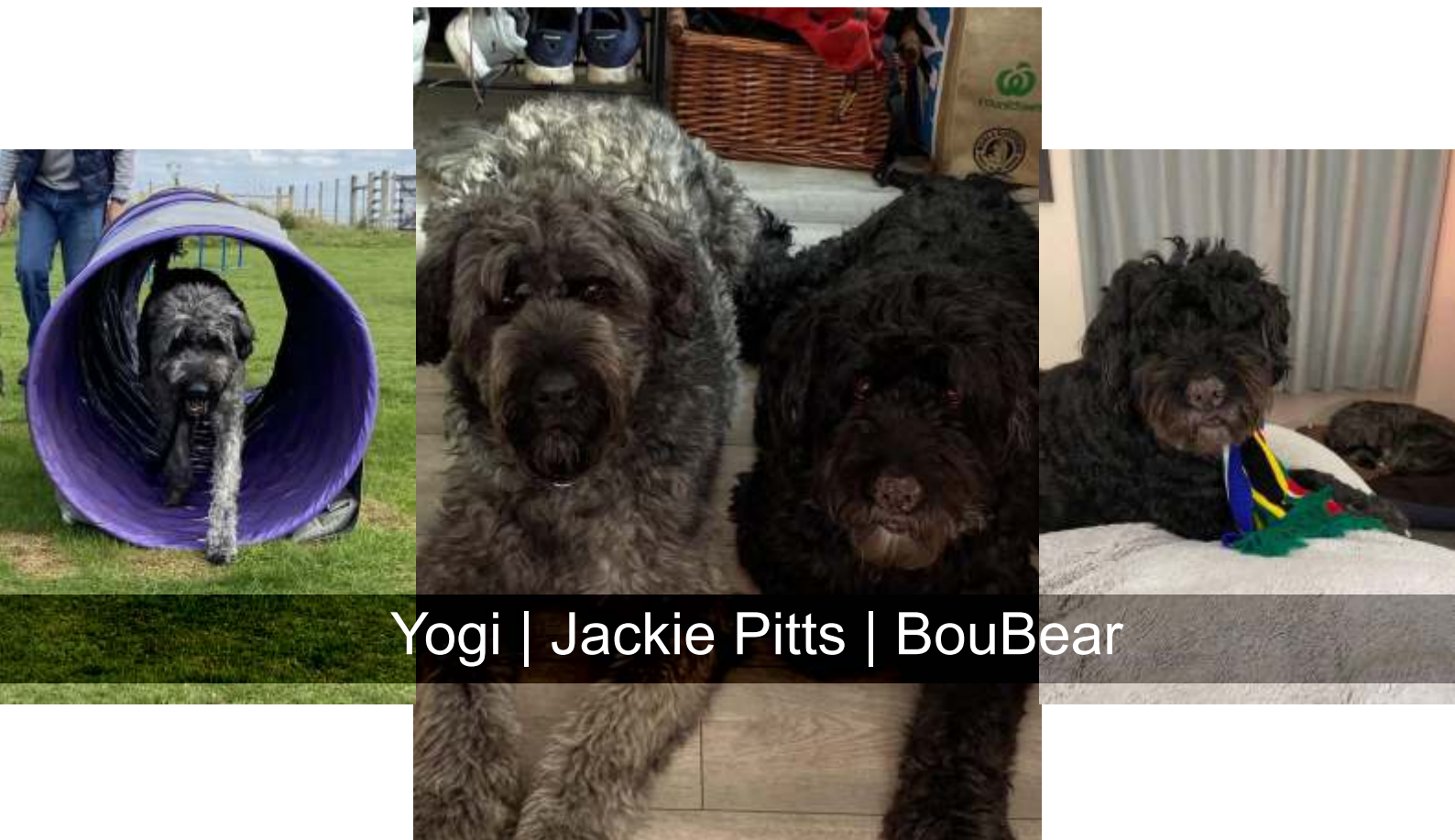
thank goodness he didn't know where they were going to! Much to his horror, the farmer introduced a pure dark brown/black sheep to his flock and he was unhappy for days!

One thing we have realised is that Yogi, bless his doggy soul, suffers from SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder). As soon as we have a grey day, he takes himself off to bed and stays there for the day. We have tried coaxing him out of bed with treats and toys but nothing seems to work. I guess this is one of the challenges of moving him from the sunny North Coast of KZN to the Scottish Highlands. BouBear on the other hand seems largely unaffected and just carries on with life.

Our Boys love it when South Africans visit and go crazy when they hear their voices on the cellphone. They clearly recognize the accent and as such, have thoroughly enjoyed the World Cup! BouBear didn't miss a game and was in his element on Saturday night especially because we had a house full of SAFFAS. And I have to mention, that he was wearing the same scarf as our President!

Yesterday we turned the clocks back so the days are getting shorter and the nights longer ... a sad day in the life of a Bouvier when you get fed an hour later but on the upside, they did get to spend an hour longer in bed!

We wish you all well over the festive season and think of us when you're laying in the sun as we will definitely be thinking of you as we are huddled around the fire!



Yogi | Jackie Pitts | BouBear

NO

YOUR DOG
WILL NOT
EVENTUALLY
'GET OVER IT'!!!

By Louise Thompson

I often hear pet guardians saying, 'It's just a phase – he will get over it'.

No, their pup or dog probably won't, in fact, in many cases, if a dog's fear, or reactivity is not addressed based on the dog's emotions, the fear or reactivity will most likely worsen!

Forcing dogs (or people) to face their deepest fears, in the hope they will 'get over it' is known as "Flooding"

Flooding Therapy was used in human psychology for a long time as a behaviour therapy in humans and animals suffering from PTSD and phobia's etc. It is based on the laws of "respondent conditioning". The technique used in flooding is the "in vivo exposure" which means direct exposure (or confrontation) to a stimulus (object, action, etc.) that has provoked the fearful response. It has, for many years been deemed unethical for use in human therapy.

In my humble opinion, this is an unethical method to undertake with any species.

The theory is, that the dog should be repeatedly exposed to a stimulus (trigger) for a prolonged amount of time in a controlled environment so he can go through and get past the anxiety/fear phase until the point where the emotional response changes (in other words until the dog realises that there is nothing to be afraid of).

The theory behind the prolonged repeated exposures is that adrenalin and fear can only affect the body for so long and after that, the dog will calm down.

Flooding in dog training has been considered a questionable approach and it is not the technique recommended by ethical dog experts.

As much as our intentions are of helping a dog, our dog will probably see the presence of the stimulus as a life-or-death situation.

Flooding Therapy in dog training is an extremely dangerous approach, where the dog handler needs to be aware that anything, including biting, may result.

Remember, the purpose of flooding in dog training is to expose the dog at a level that will produce the highest levels of fear/anxiety responses, for the dog to (supposedly) get over it.

There are so many things that can go wrong, for example: The dog may bite the handler, which will break the whole operation and can teach the dog to resolve future conflict situations by biting. The dog may escape which will just train him to fight even harder every time he is in a conflict situation, because the dog learns that it is possible to escape the threat.

In many cases, it is highly possible for the dog to end up in a more serious state than before.

WHAT DOES "NO !" MEAN?

Dogs Disclosed

Dogs don't know how to do "NO!"

"NO!" is not a behaviour.

Instead of shouting "NO!" to stop a behaviour show your dog what you would prefer them to do instead.

The word "NO!" is something dogs hear so often it becomes white noise and has no meaning.

We may say "NO!" when we're feeling angry, frustrated or impatient.

Dogs recognize our emotions and this can lead to fear, insecurity or uncertainty.

For example, instead of shouting "NO!" when a dog jumps up show dogs that keeping four paws on the ground is more rewarding.

Showing dogs what to do instead of shouting "NO!", builds trust and communication and helps dogs feel safe and encourages them to work things out for themselves.



Layla | Denise van Kamp

THE LAMENT OF THE DOG TRAINER

Adrienne's Dog School

Hello: This is the Magic Wand Dog Training Centre, we are unable to come to the phone but please press or enter the number for your request, we will return your call as soon as possible.

Press 01 to tell me your dog has been asked to leave the local obedience club because he won't sit, wait, down or come when called (even when on lead) so you thought you would try agility.

Press 02 if your Labrador is morbidly obese and you thought you would try agility.

Press 03 if you want 30 minutes of advice and have no intention of paying for it.

Press 04 if you describe your dog as 'a little bit naughty' when what you really mean is that the b*st*rd bites ... hard.

Press 05 if you want puppy training classes but your Boxer is already 12 months old.

Press 06 if you believe that just by turning up to one puppy training class and doing no work whatsoever at home, your puppy will grow up to be a well adjusted companion.

Press 07 if your nervous, aggressive GSD has bitten and hospitalized Aunt Maude, the vet, and your child and you want me to re-home it.

Press 08 if you have three children under school age, an invalid parent living at your home, a partner who works away, are pregnant with twins and want your 8 month old Dalmatian that never gets a walk to stop chewing every thing in sight.

Press 09 if you want to tell me my advice has not worked even though you have not tried it yet.

Press 10 if you want to be a trainer/behaviourist because you like animals better than people.

Press 11 if you are 15 years old and want to do work experience with me but would faint if I asked you to pick up dog poop.

Press 12 if your dog is aggressive with other dogs but you want to join one of my groups because it will be nice for him to have some friends.

Press 13 if you cannot afford my private rates and want a discount because you only have one BMW.

Press 14 if you are cancelling your lesson that is due to start in 30 minutes and have no intention of paying the cancellation fee.

Press 15 if you do not believe in rewarding a dog and know that clicker training does not work because your friend Beryl said so.

Press 16 if you think your dog knows he has done wrong when you tell him off and that he obeys you because he respects you and acknowledges you are a superior being.

Press 17 if you want me to wave my magic wand over your contacts/weaves/start line waits in just one session and will then tell me it did not work when you go to a show just two days later with no training in the meantime.

Press 18 if you have eleven Jack Russell bitches in a small flat and you want me to teach them not to fight each other.

Press 19 if you already know everything about your breed because this is the fourth one you have had and I cannot tell you anything new.

Press 20 if you want me to pick up your dear departed dog's ashes from the vets and keep them at my house because you are too upset to have them in your home (true!).

Press 21 if you could not use a Gentle Leader, indoor crate, or harness because they are cruel.

Press 22 if you will not put a muzzle on your deadly aggressive dog because you do not want people to think he is nasty.

Press 23 if you want to leave an increasingly angry message for the third time this week demanding an urgent call back and yet again forget to give your name or number.

Press 24 if, having ascertained I am out, you wish ask my engineer husband for behavioural advice about your pet.

Press 25 if you wish to fill up my answering machine with an incoherent rambling message.

Press 26 if you want your intact male adolescent dog to spend its days lying patiently on your front step on your unfenced property because dogs shouldn't want to run away, should they.

Press 27 if you want me to teach your untrained border collie to play with sheep because you think he will like it.

Press 28 if your dog thinks its name is "NO".

Press 29 if it is before 8am or after 10pm and you want to ask how to stop your 13 week old puppy from biting your 5, 7 and 9 year old boys when they play fight with it.

Press 30 if you have taken trouble to socialise and train your pet and want to make an appointment to learn even more fun stuff. No need to hold, I'll put you right through!

ALLOWING DOGS TO SNIFF HELPS THEM THINK POSITIVELY

Psychology Today

New research shows that allowing dogs to exercise their noses is good for them. A dog's nose is a work of art and they need to use it.

Most dogs like to sniff when they're on the go. It's been estimated that they sniff around 33 percent of the time when they're moving here and there and this is how they pick up all sorts of information about who's been there, whether a female is reproductively active (we don't know about males), how big they are, and perhaps what they're feeling.

Allowing dogs to take their time getting to know each other's marks prior to face-to-face interactions might therefore help dogs have smoother introductions, giving them more social cues to guide their behaviours.

The bottom line is simple: Let a dog's walk be for them, and if they're pulling you here and there with their nose pinned to the ground and occasionally snorting, let them do it. I've often thought that not allowing dogs to sniff and to exercise their nostrils and other senses could be a form of sensory deprivation.

A woman at a dog park once said to me, rather seriously, that she thought that not allowing dogs to use their noses the way they want could cause serious psychological problems. I've thought about this a lot since then. We really don't know if dogs suffer psychologically when they're deprived and can't fulfill their need to sniff and pee if they choose to do so.

Surely, when dogs are rushed along, they don't get to savour and properly assess and process various odours, and who knows what this does to them. This form of sensory deprivation might be devastating since they lose detailed information about their social and nonsocial worlds.

Embedded in this thinking is the fact that most dogs are indeed "captive" individuals who we control most, if not all, of the time. "It's a dog's life" is sometimes used to describe days filled with laziness and pleasure. All a dog must do, after all, is sleep, laze around, eat, and hang out with friends. What could be easier, especially when someone reliably plops down a bowl of food for you at every meal?

However, the lives of homed dogs aren't necessarily all fun and games, and living as the companions of humans comes with some important compromises on the part of dogs. Looking at dogs as captive beings isn't a negative judgment because being "captive" doesn't mean that a dog is ill-treated or unhappy. Rather, it is the crucial starting point for understanding our relationships with, and responsibilities to, our furry friends, relationships that very often favour us.

Anyone who's watched dogs being yanked along on a tether or being interrupted when their noses are pinned to the ground or to different parts of dogs' or humans' bodies knows they really want to sniff. I keep thinking about how not allowing dogs to exercise their senses can be a form of sensory deprivation. And, now, we know that it might indeed influence their mood. Dogs speak with chemicals and pick up a lot of information from sniffing the mouths, ears, bodies, groins, and butts of other dogs. Even if some people don't like their dog engaging in these acts, they're 100 percent dog-appropriate and they need to be allowed to do them and we need to recognise the importance of letting them be dogs and to sniff to their nostrils' content

The idea that the dog should just obediently obey any given command is hopelessly flawed. Hundreds of thousands of years have shaped their genetic needs and impulses, and that's before we consider their learning history. Ignoring their genetic needs creates unrealistic expectations in our misjudged quest to have a perfectly behaved 'obedient' dog.
Shaykelly.com

BEYOND THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

Becky Hemsley

They saw you watching over them as they finally closed their eyes
They smelt your scent as they breathed in and out for the last time
They heard the way your voice broke as you told them they were loved
They felt you as you held them with your gentle, farewell touch
And now they watch each morning as you pass their empty bed
They watch you lose composure and they see the tears you shed
They hear you bear the silence of the footsteps that are gone
That walk across your heart each day like echoes of a song
They feel the pang of emptiness you get when you're alone
In moments when you realise that they're never coming home
But in their darkest moment you were there to hold them tight
And they just want the same for you so you can feel alright
So they're sewing you a rainbow, weaving ribbons through the sky
So they can let you know that life is good beyond goodbye
So the next time it is raining and the sun appears as well
Just feel and look and listen to what they are trying to tell
They're telling you it's spring there with its showers and its sun
Where there are endless fields for them to play and stretch and run
They're telling you they sleep upon the biggest, softest beds
That they have stitched from all the clouds that float above your head
They're telling you they're not alone for there are many others
And they've been reunited with their parents, sisters, brothers
They're showing you their rainbow so you know they won't forget you
And to tell you they will always be so happy that they met you
And they're telling you they love you and though they'll be dearly missed
Not to worry, `cause it's beautiful beyond the Rainbow Bridge

In loving memory of:

Mika	-	Tanja Gomes
Amie	-	Magda Labuschagne
Bella D	-	Rolien van Greuning

Mika | Tanya Gomes



Amie
Magda Labuschagne



Bella D | Rolien van Greuning

MIYA'S MESSAGE



I think that the man who looks after the weather here has had too much Rugby World Cup excitement. He's been forgetting to set the temperatures right!! He's got the seasons all mixed up! After the Bokke beat England last week he forgot to turn the heaters off during the day and it just got hotter and hotter until we almost melted. But after we beat New Zealand in the final on Saturday, he's just lost it completely. Instead of pushing the button for "summer" and keeping an eye on things, he's pushed the button for "winter" and not just an ordinary winter. There has been rain, hail, snow, wind and its freezing!! And I don't have my winter coat! We went for our walk yesterday morning even though it had rained a bit in the night and the wind was icy but today! Oh, my! I think the man is still asleep or maybe he's gone to the airport to welcome the Springboks back but he's mixed our Gauteng weather up with that of Cape Town because it been raining and raining on top of the cold. We have dry cold here, not wet cold, Mr Weather Man and it's almost November! Get a grip! When we got up this morning it was quite light but just when we were on our way to the park it started bucketing down and so we had to turn back and settle for a quick (and I mean quick) run in our little "evening" park. Now Denise is sitting with the computer on her lap and a hot water bottle at her back and I'm all curled up on the couch. I see pictures of you guys snuggled under blankets but I can't do that. Not sure why I don't like it because Tristan loved it but as soon as I feel a blankie on me I get up and move away.

Hopefully the Weather Guy will snap out of it in the next couple of days because we have school tomorrow and it wont be much fun if the weather is like today!

With this weather the birds are not having a good time. They're wet and miserable and wait for their food all hunched up. Even the hadedahs, or vuvuzelas as we know them, didn't wake us up this morning. Maybe their beaks were iced shut. Then we found a freezing dove by the back door. We brought it in and warmed it up and eventually it wanted to go back outside although I bet its sorry now it didn't stay inside

It's now tomorrow! The sun is shining it's still a bit cold but we went to school this morning.

When Calum, my Goldie classmate arrived, his dad asked who of us would like carrot cake. It is Calum's 5th birthday today. Of course I got in the queue pretty smartly. After all carrot is good for you, I know because I get them in my food almost every night, so carrot cake must also be good! Because it was Calum's birthday we were given a break from doing "stays". Neither of us enjoy them. They're soooo boring. We did normal stuff but in a different way, We did our retrieve through an ally

of cones and over a jump both ways. We did alternating figure of eights but four of them with right and left turns to line ourselves up each time. The recall was over a jump and the scent cloths were between the cones just to change the picture a bit. I also did the scent using a “newly scented” cloth, not the usual smelly one. I went up and down the line three times before I decided which one I wanted and it was the right one! Everyone said I was “very meticulous”. Not totally sure what that is but I’m sure its good because I got a jackpot of treats.

Then Louise said she wanted us to do something, anything of our choice. Here my Rally work helped! Walking beside Denise, first I did a spin to the left, then to the right, then I did a sort of criss-cross - walking first on the left, then on the right, switching as Denise gave me commands of “heel” and “side” and ending with a “down”. It was quite impressive if I do say so myself! Calum just went through Alec’s legs to fetch a treat he’d thrown there.

And now it’s nearly time for the Christmas break. I don’t mean we must break something, there’s just a break from training and if you’re lucky your people have a break from work to spend more time with you. So enjoy it. Don’t eat anything you shouldn’t even if it looks yummy and is within reach and let’s all ask for everyone who is fighting to PLEASE STOP! In the end no-one wins.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year

from MIYA

A photograph of two black dogs, likely Labradors, sitting on a patterned rug in a living room. Both dogs are wearing red Santa hats with white pom-poms and red and white booties on their front paws. The dog on the right is looking towards the camera with its mouth open, while the dog on the left is looking slightly to the side. In the background, a Christmas tree is decorated with lights and ornaments, and a window with patterned curtains is visible. A glass coffee table is partially visible on the right side of the frame.

Tristan | Denise Scarrott | Miya

DOG VOMIT: WHAT YOUR PUP'S PUKE MEANS

Proud Dog Mom

If you're a dog mom (or dad) then you know ... vomit happens. Most times, it's nothing to worry about. But, it can be a warning sign of something serious.

How Do I Know If My Dog's Vomiting Is Cause for Concern?

Not all vomit is created equal. So, the first thing you'll need to do is take a peek at that pile of puke and assess it. Vomit ranges in colour, consistency, and odour, which all offer clues. So, the first step is to take note of those three things.

Next, evaluate the frequency. How many times, and how often, has your pup thrown up? Was it just once and then back to business as usual? Or has your pup thrown up multiple times and appears under the weather? These are all things your veterinarian needs to know.

Vomiting vs. Regurgitation

First off, let's figure out if Fido vomited or regurgitated. Yes, those are two different things!

Regurgitation is a passive process. It happens without warning. There's no muscular involvement, no nausea, and no retching. Think of a burp. With regurgitation, when a burp happens, the food or liquid rushes up from the oesophagus (the muscular tube food passes through on its way to the stomach). The food never actually makes it to the stomach, so what comes back is undigested and appears much like it did when first eaten.

Some dogs regurgitate because they're eating/drinking too quickly or exercise too soon after a meal. But it's not that simple for all dogs. More serious conditions that could trigger regurgitation include obstructions, inflammation of the oesophagus, and megaoesophagus. Regurgitation may be a sign something is seriously wrong somewhere within the throat or oesophagus.

Vomiting is an active process. There are normally warning signs a dog is going to vomit. As humans, we know full well how awful we feel before we throw up. Your dog feels the same way. You may notice him drooling, whining, pacing, gagging, and/or retching. You'll see his stomach muscles in action as they work hard to force the food out of the stomach or intestines, back up the oesophagus, and out of his mouth. Many times, vomit happens and it's nothing to worry about. But, in case your pooch is having a problem, being able to accurately describe it to your vet can be very helpful in diagnosing the problem.

Dogs may vomit from eating something they shouldn't have, had a change in diet, possible food allergies, ingested something inedible (like a toy), or may have some underlying medical issue going on.

Vomit Consistency:

Chunky

Chunky Vomit is chunky because it's made up of undigested food. It happens shortly after a dog has eaten and appears like whatever Fido just ate.

Chunky vomit can happen from:

- Eating something that upsets the stomach
- Eating too quickly
- Too much activity right after eating

In the worst-case scenario, it could be from a possible obstruction which isn't allowing food to pass through the digestive tract normally and is a medical emergency!

If Fido ate too fast, try to slow him down. If this is an isolated incident, there shouldn't be anything to worry about. But, if he always gobbles his meals too quickly, it's time to be proactive and slow him down. There are special food bowls on the market called slow-feeders that consist of a maze-like structure to prevent a pooch from gobbling his food.

Vomit Colours

Yellow Foamy Vomit – One of the most common reasons for yellow foamy vomit is an empty stomach. It's especially common in the morning after a dog's stomach has been empty overnight. Bile can build up in the empty stomach, causing inflammation, irritation, and a stomach ache (which can progress to vomiting the yellow foamy liquid).

If your pooch is throwing up yellow from an empty stomach, try feeding him a little snack before bedtime. This way his tummy is not empty for as many hours. Often, this solves the problem. Some other causes may be diet, inflammation of the digestive tract, pancreatitis, or Bilious Vomiting Syndrome (BVS).

Green Vomit often happens because your pooch ate grass or it could be bile. It's normally not a cause for concern unless he continues to vomit. If it is bile and it's not an isolated incident, it's best to call on the vet. Especially if he has any other symptoms such as loss of appetite, won't drink, or shows other signs of not feeling well, like pain, discomfort, or weakness.

Red Vomit most often indicates blood. It's important to note the amount, type, odour, and colour of red vomit. Sometimes if a dog has been retching or has an upset stomach, you may notice a few small red streaks or specks in the vomit. This often happens from irritation and should go away as quickly as it came.

But if your dog is vomiting bright red liquid then he is vomiting fresh blood. This is a medical emergency and Fido needs to see the veterinarian ASAP. Depending on where the blood is coming from, how much he's losing, and why, it can become fatal very quickly. A rapid loss of blood can compromise vital organs in the body. When organs don't receive enough blood, they're also denied the oxygen that's carried in that blood.

Possible causes can be from the ingestion of a toxic substance, parasites, bacterial or viral infections, stomach ulcers, Haemorrhagic Gastroenteritis (HGE), severe recurrent vomiting, and various other underlying medical conditions. Waste no time in getting Fido to the veterinarian.

Brown Coffee Ground-Like vomit is most often caused by older blood that's been digested. This blood comes from further down in the intestines. This type of puke

has a strong odour. As the blood continues to pass through the digestive tract, when the dog poops, he will likely have black tarry bowel movements. Just like vomiting bright red fresh blood from higher up in the GI tract, brown coffee ground looking vomit is a medical emergency. Contact your veterinarian right away.

Possible causes include ulcers, tumours, gastritis, foreign body ingestion, toxic ingestion, and various underlying medical conditions.

White Foamy Vomit can happen for many reasons, but one common cause is indigestion. This can happen from eating something that didn't agree with him, overeating, eating too fast, spoiled food, grass, and the list goes on. If it's an isolated incident and Fido's otherwise feeling and acting normal then just observe him – he is probably fine. But, if Fido is having other symptoms of not feeling well and continues to vomit, it's time to notify the vet. Of the many possible causes for throwing up the white foamy stuff, these are the most serious: Bloat, Kennel Cough, Parvovirus, Pancreatitis, and Rabies.

When to Call the Veterinarian

As I mentioned above, if Fido vomits once, seems happy, is eating, drinking, having normal bowel movements, and playing normally then he's probably just fine. Observe him. No need to call the vet unless you notice him vomiting again or observe changes that indicate he isn't feeling well.

If your dog throws up more than once, seems weak, sluggish, has loss of appetite, weight loss, pale gums, is dehydrated, constipated, diarrhoea, seems to be in pain, and just not feeling well then call your vet right away. If your pooch is vomiting red blood or coffee ground material — call your vet immediately. There is no time for delay! This is a medical emergency that is potentially fatal depending on the severity of the bleeding.

What to Tell the Vet

When you call the vet to report Fido's condition, be prepared to give details.

When did he start vomiting?

How many times has he thrown up?

Is he still vomiting?

What does it look like?

Colour?

Texture?

Amount?

Odour?

How is the dog now?

Is he otherwise acting normal?

Lying around sick?

Does he appear to be in pain?

Any detail you feel is important is always helpful to assist the vet in coming up with a diagnosis.

Scoop up some of the vomit in a clean Ziploc bag for the vet to examine..

SIT...SIT.....SIT.....SIT.....SIT.....

Adrienne's Dog School

I see this very common issue often and it really can work against what you want to achieve.

It really confuses some dogs and puppies and leads to frustration for some dog guardians, pawparents or owners.

Repeating what you want over and over and at differing times while they are attempting to learn something.

This is such a common issue and often a hard habit to break for some....but when they do change their habit of repeating themselves over and overwhat a difference it can make!

We often see owners repeating cues or "commands". They tell us that their dog cannot sit (as an example) or they don't come straight away when they call or their dog won't or (more importantly) doesn't understand a "down".

Why ?

Because they have conditioned their dog to ignore them by always repeating a command.

Take "down" for example. There is absolutely no use in having a dog in a sit and repeating "down....down...down", if you look at it from a dogs point of view, they may very well think a "sit" means "down", so they will continue to sit.

They are not being stubborn, they simply don't understand what you want.

In the down scenario...sometimes people say "down" repeatedly when their dog is in a sit and continue to repeat "down...down...down" maybe after a minute of this the dog may do a down...but what have they actually learned?

That "down" is waiting a minute and then doing a down...maybe, occasionally ?

Even if they know what down is, if you keep repeating the cue you want you may muddy their understanding and they will just switch off.....that is when you get unreliable cues.

Unreliable cues get unreliable results.

Dogs do not automatically know what we want and if we verbalise what we want in the form of a cue, we need to be very clear.

In the example of "down" you should say that when the dogs belly hits the ground....then say "down".

So "down" means belly on ground. Clear, understandable and repeatable once understood.

Cue training is the action of the word....not the word itself, until they begin to make an association of the action with the word...you will be saying "down" for a very long time to come.

Not repeating what you have asked also gives a dog time to use their beautiful brain and actually think about what you want...rather than being confused by you saying the word over and over again.

Remember it is the action that should accompany the cue.

Names are also used over and over again....all you will do is teach your dog to not respond to you and ignore you....something no-one wants.

Although at times it may actually feel like our canine companions understand every word we speak, they don't, nor do they come pre-programmed knowing common commands. It is up to us to teach them every single word that we use. For your dog to understand a cue or command they must first make an association.

- Ensure your dog thoroughly understands each cue before you use it
- Once learned, make sure you have their attention before you give them a cue or command
- Teach a cue in a low distraction area (at home or in your backyard), then train your dog to do the same in other areas....adding in more distractions.
- If your dog won't sit when asked the first time you will struggle with more complex cues like recall. Go back and really work on the basics before adding in more complex associations.

So remember...Repeating yourself over and over just makes a dog not understand what you actually want, will confuse and will not make your dog listen to you. In fact they may start to ignore you



**Not
every
person
knows
how to
love a
dog, but
every
dog
knows
how to
love a
person**

Ambush | Sonette de Jager

DOGS' NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.

The garbage collector is NOT stealing our stuff.

I do not need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.

I will scootch my bottom along the grass to rid myself of hangers-on.

I will not roll my toys behind the fridge.

I must shake the rainwater out of my fur BEFORE entering the house.

I will not drop soggy tennis balls in the underwear of someone who is sitting on the toilet.

I will not roll my head around in other animals' poop.

I will not eat the cats' food, before or after they eat it.

I will stop trying to find the few remaining pieces of clean carpet in the house when I am about to throw up.

I will not throw up in the car.

I will not roll on dead birds, seagulls, fish, crabs, etc.

I will not lick my human's face after eating animal poop.

"Kitty box crunchies" are not food.

I will not eat any more socks and then redeposit them in the backyard after processing.

The diaper pail is not a cookie jar.

I will not wake Mommy up by sticking my cold, wet nose up her bottom end.

I will not chew my human's toothbrush and not tell them.

I will not chew crayons or pens, especially not the red ones, or my people will think I am haemorrhaging.

When in the car, I will not insist on having the window rolled down when it's raining outside.

We do not have a doorbell. I will not bark each time I hear one on TV.

I will not steal my Mom's underwear and dance all over the backyard with it.

The sofa is not a face towel. Neither are Mom & Dad's laps.

My head does not belong in the refrigerator, dishwasher or trash can.

I will not bite the officer's hand when he reaches in for Mom's driver's license and car registration.

I will not spend more than 5 minutes trying to find the "perfect" place to poop.

I will not eat other animals' poop.

I will not take off while on leash to chase squirrels while Mommy is standing on a slippery grass slope

DOES A TILTED HEAD MAKE A DOG LOOK MORE APPEALING?

Stanley Coren PhD., DSc, FRSC (with permission)
psychologytoday.com/blog/canine-corner

Data shows that dogs who look at you with their head tilted seem "cuter".

I was sitting on a sofa with my Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, Ranger, beside me. A photographer was taking some snapshots of us which were going to be used as part of the publicity for a lecture series that I had agreed to give. At one point she said to me, "Is there any way that you could get him to tilt his head while looking at the camera? You know that makes a dog look much cuter."

I assured her that, although my dog knew a lot of commands, "Tilt your head" was not one of them. However her question did start me thinking about the issue of how people respond when they see a dog with its head tilted to one side. A few years ago I did some research which suggested one reason that dogs tilt their heads involves a visual factor, at least in part. The problem is that when we speak to a dog his muzzle blocks his view of our mouth area so tilting his head gives them a better view of our face. Dogs with less pronounced muzzles are not as likely to tilt their heads when spoken to.

Immediately following the publication of that data a number of people protested saying that they believed that head tilting in dogs was a social signal or a form of communication. The idea is that this is one of those social signals that has evolved because of the association of dogs and people over millennia. In this case the suggestion is that we respond to that particular posture in a positive way (since it certainly can look cute especially in puppies). When we are responding positively to a dog it is more likely to get rewards in the form of social attention, treats, etc.

While I considered this to be an interesting idea, the first step in establishing whether it was valid or not was to determine whether or not people actually considered a dog gazing at them with its head tilted as being more appealing or cuter than seeing that same dog with its head upright. Unfortunately no experimental data existed establishing that fundamental fact.

As I now reconsidered this issue I wondered whether there was some simple method in which I could test the question of whether head tilt affects our emotional response to a dog. I knew that it would be easy to find a huge number of photographs of dogs in all different poses on the Internet, and I have used data like that in other research. The trick is that simply having the photographs without some indication as to how likable these images appear to the people viewing them is not enough to answer the question. It was then that I remembered that in previous research I had found a way of getting that

information by using the huge archive of photographs on Flickr.com. The reason is that Flickr's bank of images includes a way in which viewers can express an opinion about each picture. When you roll your mouse over a photo you can see that in the lower right corner of each image there is a star icon which indicates the number of "faves" that have been posted for that image. A fave is much the same as expressing a "like" on Facebook and it serves as an indication that the person viewing the image likes it, or finds it to be appealing and attractive. Simply clicking on that star allows the viewer to express that they find that particular photo to be pleasing.

Therefore I went to the Flickr site and used the search term "dog" which allowed me to collect 125 images of dogs looking directly at the camera with their head upright, while the search terms "dog tilt" allowed me to collect another 125 images of dogs looking at the camera with their head tilted. I accepted photos which were either black and white or in full colour, and dogs of all ages, although I did exclude obviously young puppies since people might find these photos attractive simply because all puppies are considered to be "cute". The images had to include only one dog and that dog had to be facing the camera relatively squarely. I eliminated images where the dog's head appeared to be tilted because of the camera angle, or because the dog had twisted around in some way to look at the camera. Any image which included a person, had the dog costumed or decorated in any way, or had the dog showing an obvious emotion (for example showing teeth, or submissively lowered ears) were not entered into the sample.

The resulting data based on the number of faves for each image were then statistically analysed.

The results were actually quite clear, with the images of a dog with its head tilted receiving an average of 14.1 faves as opposed to 9.5 faves for dogs with their heads upright. This difference turns out to be statistically significant which means that people viewing a dog with its head tilted are nearly 50% more likely to think that it is more appealing than viewing a dog with its head in a normal right position.

To the extent that when a dog is viewed as more attractive it is more likely to receive rewards of both a social and a tangible nature, this is a good thing for dogs. Since puppies also adopt this posture at a very young age it is unlikely that this behaviour is learned. Thus it is possible that as dogs and humans co-evolved the head tilt that some dogs use when humans are speaking to them became encoded in their genes. This might happen because it is adaptive in their interactions with people — after all dogs that are viewed more positively are more likely to receive better care, more protection and so forth. Of course this is a bit of an inferential leap, but based on this data it is something probably worth thinking about.

Still, I don't think that I'm going to try to find a way to teach my dog to respond to the command "Tilt your head" just to make him appear to be more photogenic.

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DOGS' EYES EVOLVE TO APPEAL TO HUMANS

By Sean Coughlan BBC News

If a dog has eyes that seem to be telling you something or demanding your attention, it could be evolution's way of manipulating your feelings.

Researchers have found that dogs have evolved muscles around their eyes, which allow them to make expressions that particularly appeal to humans.

A small facial muscle allows dog eyes to mimic an "infant-like" expression which prompts a "nurturing response".

The study says such "puppy eyes" helped domesticated dogs to bond with humans.

Previous studies have shown how such canine expressions can appeal to humans, but this research shows there has been an anatomical change around dogs' eyes to make it possible.

This allows dogs to create what the researchers call "expressive eyebrows" and to "create the illusion of human-like communication".

"When dogs make the movement, it seems to elicit a strong desire in humans to look after them," says the study, co-authored by Dr Juliane Kaminski.

This muscle movement allows dogs' eyes to "appear larger, more infant-like and also resembles a movement humans produce when they are sad".

She says that humans would have an "unconscious preference" to protect and breed from dogs with such an appealing trait, giving them an evolutionary advantage and reinforcing this change in subsequent generations.

"The evidence is compelling that dogs developed a muscle to raise the inner eyebrow after they were domesticated from wolves," says Dr Kaminski.

The findings show that the facial change has developed over thousands of years of dogs living alongside humans.

Previous research has shown that dogs are more likely to use this "puppy eyes" expression when a human is looking at them - suggesting that it is a deliberate behaviour and intended for human consumption.

Anatomist and report co-author, Professor Anne Burrows, says that in evolutionary terms the changes to dogs' facial muscles was "remarkably fast" and could be "directly linked to dogs' enhanced social interaction with humans".

The findings show "how important faces can be in capturing our attention, and how powerful facial expression can be in social interaction".

CAN SCIENCE EXPLAIN WHY DOGS ARE WILLING TO RISK THEIR LIVES FOR US?

by Dina Fantegrossi

They drag us from burning buildings, alert us to medical emergencies, battle intruders, and even take bullets for us, but what is it that motivates dogs to risk their own lives for humans? Love? Gratitude? Preservation of the life they hold dear? All of these things may play a role, but recent research suggests it comes down to empathy.

The canine species seem to have emotions so closely linked to our own that they are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect us.

Take for example, studies on “contagious yawning”. The phenomenon is due to mirror neurons in the brain. Basically, the more empathetic an animal is, the more likely they are to unconsciously mimic the facial expressions and behaviours of their companions.

Yawning is often used during experiments measuring empathy because it is such a clear mirror response. In a 2013 study, 21 out of 29 dogs yawned after a researcher did the same – pretty strong evidence that they empathize with our kind!

Ramiro Joly-Mascheroni, co-author of the study, acknowledged the dogs may have been simply yawning because they were tired or stressed, but he also noted that none of the dogs yawned between sessions or during the control phase. If the yawning evidence is to be believed, dogs may have the capacity for empathy of a four or five-year-old child.

Dr. Brian Hare, founder of the Duke University Canine Cognition Center, said canines have learned to “read our minds” and bond with humans in a way no other animal can. Dr. Hare describes the bond as being similar to that between a parent and child.

“When parents and children gaze into each others’ eyes, the feel-good hormone oxytocin is released,” said Hare. “It creates this oxytocin loop that encourages us to protect and care for our babies.”

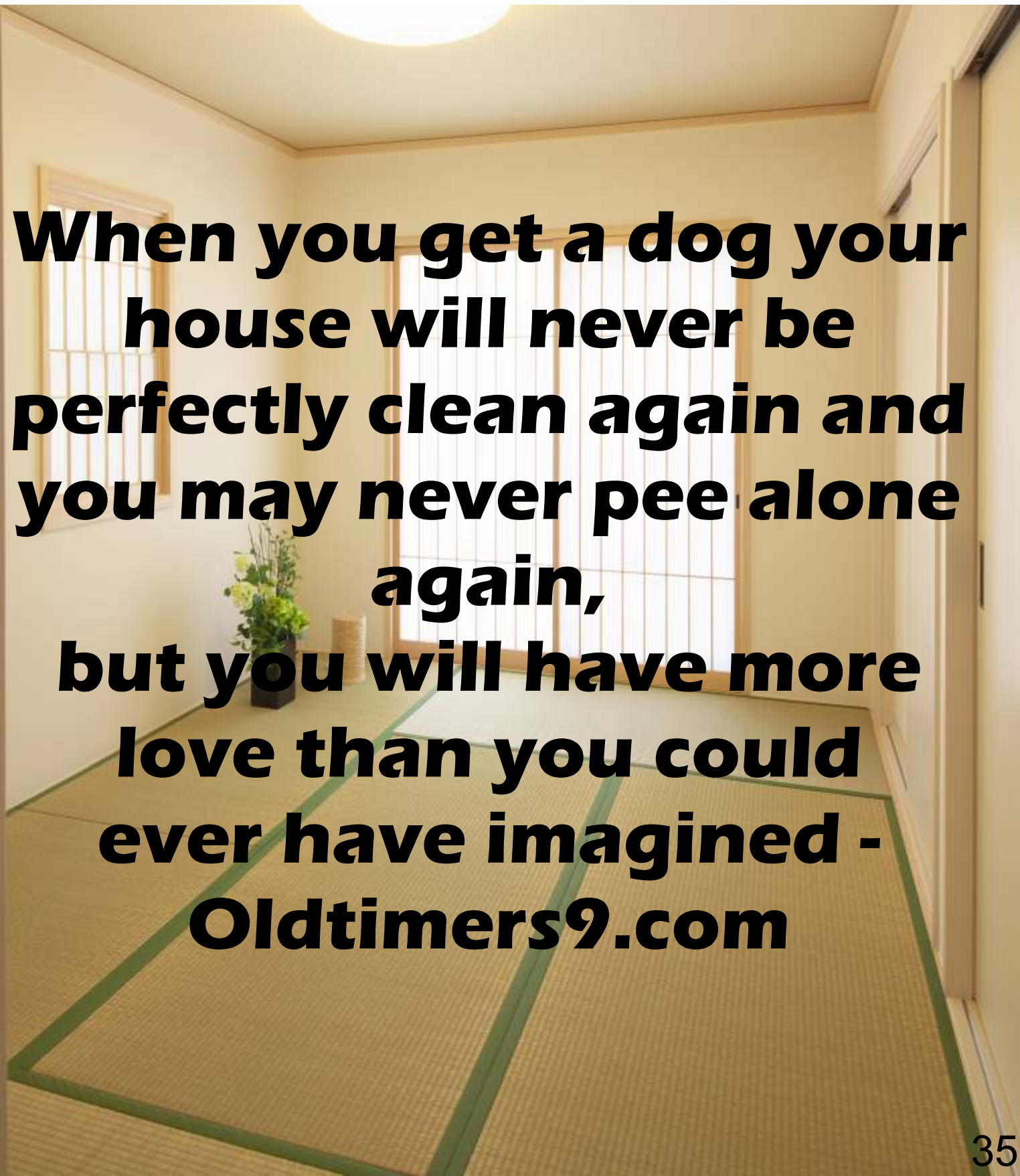
The same reaction occurs between humans and dogs. When your dog stares into your eyes, your oxytocin rises, and vice versa.

“Dogs have basically hijacked this pathway that was meant to be between us and our kids,” Hare said. “So when your dog is just staring at you for no apparent reason, they don’t necessarily want anything. They are just hugging you with their eyes.”

Annika Huber, a doctoral student at Switzerland’s University of Bern Veterinary Public Health Institute, studies dog behaviour. She says that true emotional bonding between humans and dogs is difficult to prove scientifically due to communication barriers, but MRI technology has shown that specific parts of a dog’s brain light up when the upbeat voice of their human is heard.

Another study indicated that dogs can tell the difference between various emotional human facial expressions. Some dogs seem to be more “tuned in” and responsive to our needs than others, adding to the conundrum of empathetic behaviour.

Although there is no scientific data to definitively answer the question of why a dog would lay down its own life for a human, most dog owners don't need proof. They will tell you the answer is simple: unconditional love. A love that sometimes manifests itself in the most heroic and miraculous ways.

A bright, clean room with large windows and a green border on the floor. The room is empty except for a small potted plant on a table. The text is overlaid on the image.

**When you get a dog your
house will never be
perfectly clean again and
you may never pee alone
again,
but you will have more
love than you could
ever have imagined -
Oldtimers9.com**

FIVE REASONS GROOMING IS VITAL TO YOUR DOG'S HEALTH

by: Scott H

While most dog owners get their dogs groomed to keep them looking their best, many overlook just how important proper grooming is. Grooming is an integral part of your dog's health and well-being and even a short-coated dog can suffer from a lack of grooming.

The amount of grooming your pooch will need depends on their coat type, but adequate grooming is important for all dogs. Whether you take your pup to the groomer or tackle the task yourself, keep in mind why grooming is so important.

#1 – Prevent Fleas & Ticks

Perhaps one of the main reasons to bathe your dog is to prevent flea and tick infestations. Although bathing alone is not enough to get rid of these nasty pests, it will help you spot them and will kill the ones on your dog. Once you know they're there, you can remove them safely and take further action to eliminate the pests.

#2 – Eliminate Discomfort

Grooming eliminates discomfort in many ways. First, brushing is something that feels very good to most dogs. With the right brush, your pup will feel like they're getting a nice massage while you remove dead hair, stimulate new growth, and bring your pup's natural oils to their skin.

Further, it helps prevent matting on longer coats. If your dog's coat does matt easily, removing those matts will help your pup feel better. Matting pulls on the skin and coat and is not only painful but often the cause of sores. Removing dirt and debris out of your dog's coat will also make them more comfortable, prevent further matting, and replenish their skin and coat.

#3 – Protect Feet & Joints

Nail trimming is probably one of the most overlooked parts of general dog care. But long nails aren't just an eyesore, they are unhealthy and uncomfortable for your dog as well. First, nails that are too long force your dog to change their gait. Long nails make your dog start walking on sides of their feet. This is not only painful, but it causes bone deformations and arthritis if left untreated. Some dogs even have nails that grow all the way into their footpads, which is extremely painful.

No matter how difficult it is to trim your dog's nails, it must be done. It is so important to keep them at a correct, natural length to prevent long-term damage.

#4 – Keep Ear Infections Away

Dogs need their ears cleaned regularly, especially those prone to ear infections. Dogs have hair in their ears that often needs to be plucked, although this is more common in long-coated dogs than others. Still, keeping the inside of your pup's ears clean will prevent ear infections, ear mites and other ailments. Plus, it'll help your pooch feel more comfortable.

#5 – Check for Abnormalities

One of the great benefits of grooming is that you or your regular groomer will become more familiar with the marks on your dog's skin. You'll soon be able to quickly feel any underlying lumps and bumps and spot any changes on your dog's skin, should something go awry. Early detection is important for all diseases, so using regular grooming to help go over your dog's body will improve your chances of finding anything abnormal early on.



Julia | Elizabeth Hodgson



Aura | Barry Schönfeldt

Whether practising spins, circle around, leash walking, Hand targeting or any other skill that can be done on more than one side, make sure to practice all possibilities. You want to avoid any physical stress from working the same set of muscles over and over. Teach to spin to the left and right. Teach leash walking on either side of your body. Teach “go round” from different directions. This also teaches dogs to pay attention and not to simply throw the same behaviour at you - Sitstaylearn

DISTEMPER IN DOGS: SYMPTOMS, DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT

by Dr. Sarah Wooten

In dogs and other mammals, distemper is a contagious and sometimes fatal viral disease. The name of the disease comes from the virus that causes the problem: canine distemper virus (CDV). CDV is closely related to the measles virus in humans.

Distemper can be transmitted via airborne exposure when droplets from an infected animal's nose contaminate their environment, through direct exposure with an infected animal or in utero through the placenta.

Distemper can affect many parts of a dog's body, but it usually impacts the respiratory, gastrointestinal and neurological systems. Additional areas that can be affected by distemper include the eyes, genitals, teeth, paw pad nose and skin, and endocrine (glands), urinary and immune systems.

Young dogs are much more susceptible to distemper than adult dogs. The first sign of distemper is usually a fever accompanied by discharge from the nose and eyes. Dogs with distemper often have very low energy and won't want to eat. Usually, these symptoms are followed by effects on a dog's gastrointestinal tract, respiratory tract or nervous system, which can include:

Diarrhoea

Seizures and/or muscle tremors

Circling and/or head tilts

Drooling

Loss of coordination

Weakness or paralysis

Blindness from inflammation inside the eye and optic nerve

Coughing due to pneumonia

Hardened skin on the paw pads and nose

Loss of enamel on teeth (seen in dogs who've recovered from distemper)

Distemper weakens a dog's immune system, making them more susceptible to secondary bacterial infections. More than half of the dogs who contract distemper will not recover, with many of them passing away two to four weeks after contracting the virus, usually due to neurological problems.

Dogs who do recover from distemper are not considered to be infectious or carriers of the disease. In rare cases, dogs who recover from distemper can have a relapse of central nervous system symptoms two to three months after their initial infection, which may be fatal.

To diagnose distemper in dogs, your veterinarian will consider your pup's health history, vaccination history, as well as any physical exam findings. Because distemper is incredibly common and contagious, any young pup who shows symptoms and hasn't been vaccinated will be considered potentially infected. In these scenarios, precautions will need to be taken to isolate your pup.

The signs of distemper in dogs can mimic those of several other infectious diseases, including parvovirus, kennel cough and meningitis. If you suspect that your dog may be infected, you'll want to take them to the vet right away. To confirm a diagnosis, your vet will likely recommend a series of lab tests, including blood chemistry, full blood count, faecal exams for parasites and parvovirus testing. They may also recommend additional distemper-specific blood tests. If they suspect pneumonia, your vet may recommend chest x-rays for your pup, too.

Your dog should be admitted to a veterinary hospital for isolation and treatment if they've been diagnosed with distemper or if you suspect they may have it. To prevent the spread of the disease in the hospital, it's important that dogs with distemper are isolated from others and only handled by people wearing personal protective equipment.

Currently, there is no anti-viral drug available for CDV. Since dogs with distemper typically don't want to eat and drink, become dehydrated from diarrhoea and are susceptible to secondary bacterial infections, treatment is focussed on supportive care. This may include fluid therapy, antibiotics and cleaning away nasal and eye discharge. Once their fever subsides and any secondary infections are controlled, dogs usually regain their appetite.

Recovery from distemper depends on many factors, including your pup's overall health and the severity of their nervous system symptoms. Severe symptoms like seizures are usually associated with a lower chance of recovery.. Fortunately, a highly effective modified live vaccine exists to prevent distemper in dogs, which is considered a core vaccine for puppies. It's recommended that all puppies 6 weeks old and older receive three to four distemper vaccine boosters every two to four weeks until they're 16 weeks old.

Most puppies are protected from distemper when they're born, thanks to the powerful antibodies they receive from their mother's milk. However, these maternal antibodies wear off as the puppy grows, leaving them vulnerable to infection. These antibodies also interfere with the vaccine, which is why a pup will need multiple boosters to appropriately develop vaccine antibodies.

Distemper is a serious disease, but it doesn't have to affect your precious pup's health. By following your veterinarian's vaccine recommendations and heeding the tell-tale signs mentioned above, you can easily protect your dog from distemper.



ORIGIN OF THE WORD VETERINARY

Dr. Oscar Broгна

The word "veterinarian" originates from Latin. In ancient Rome, horses used in the army (beasts of burden) that were very old were collected in a place where they could enjoy and rest. These animals were called "veterinus".

The people who cared for these animals were called VETERINARIII (veterinarius), which was a derivative of the word VETUS / VETERIS, "old man". Because of this the profession of animal care was called that.

259 years after the creation of the first school of veterinary medicine the first two veterinary schools, Lyon, on August 4, 1761, and the École Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort (Paris), were created by French Claude Bourgelat, lawyer and lover of horses, who did not accept the ineffectiveness of the empirical treatment of his purebred horses, and used his influence to convince King Louis XV to create the Lyon Veterinary School, which began operating in 1762, with its students recruited among farriers, specialists in the care of the horses' hooves, with horseshoeing being one of the subjects studied

ONDERSTEEPOORT

The earliest reference to veterinary education in SA dates back to 1901/02 when the Transvaal Department of Agriculture was formed and it was suggested that a "Veterinary College" for SA be established.

This may not have been the first attempt as already in 1886 Jotello Soga, a Xhosa from the Eastern Cape, qualified as the very first South African veterinarian graduating from the University of Edinburgh, confirming a relationship in veterinary training that was already established.

The history of Faculty was closely linked to that of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI). Soon after the founding of the institute by Sir Arnold Theiler in 1908 it became clear to him that there was an urgent need for the training of veterinarians in SA with its unique diseases and challenges.

In March 1914 Sir Theiler had the first opportunity to present his ideas to a State commission on Higher education, then known as the Universities Commission, and later in 1914 to the Senate of the Transvaal University College (TUC) under University of South Africa, that later became the University of Pretoria.

LAST WAG OF THE TAIL

A shout out to the dogs that will literally eat cat poop given the opportunity, but try to hide a pill in 3 pounds of cheese and suddenly they're Gordon Ramsey

Ivanka Trump is walking a dog outside the White House...

A Secret Service agent sees her and says "Good Morning, Ma'am."

"Good morning." She replies.

"That's a very cute dog, ma'am." the agent says trying to make polite small talk.

"Oh, thank you. I got it for the President." She replies with a smile.

"Excellent trade, Ma'am."

We give the dogs the time we can spare and love we can spare. And in return dogs give us their all.. It's the best deal man has ever made - M Facklam

I wonder if Superman ever put glasses on Lois Lane's dog and she was like, "I've never seen this dog before. Is this a new dog?" - @Robfee

A Canadian psychologist is selling a video that teaches you how to test your dog's IQ. Here's how it works: If you spend \$12.99 for the video, your dog is smarter than you. - Jay Leno

.Driving down a winding country road, a man came across a youth running hard, three huge dogs snarling at his heels.

The man screeched his car to a halt and threw open the door. "Get in! Get in!" he shouted.

"Thanks," gasped the youth. "You're terrific. Most people won't offer a lift when they see I have three dogs!" - PA Isaacson, Readers' Digest

I know I'm just a dog but...

If you feel sad, I'll be your smile,

If you cry, I'll be your comfort.

And if someone breaks your heart we can use mine to live.

I'll always be by your side

If your dog has a double coat, do not shave them in an effort to keep them cool during hot weather. This can have the opposite effect! Double-coated breeds such as Bouviers, Huskies, Corgis, Labs, etc., should never be shaved unless directed to do so by a veterinarian