



HOWLS & HIGHLIGHTS



✧ Highlights ✧

continued on page 2

**"The most affectionate creature in the world is a wet dog."
- Ambrose Bierce**



LIVING WITH DOGS

Dog Meets Dog

New dog in the household? The key to success is to plan ahead and be patient. Don't assume the dogs will take an instant liking to each other or that they will work things out themselves. If your dogs get off on the wrong paw, the relationship might not recover. Taking a little extra time is well worth the effort.



Before you get in the house:

- Arrange an on-leash meeting on neutral ground. That means not in your house or yard, and with plenty of space around. Keep the leashes loose and let the dogs approach calmly. (Is your dog more comfortable off leash? Leave the leash off and keep tasty treats ready in case you need to call him away.)
- After a 2-second greet-and-sniff, call each dog away with a cheerful voice. Praise and treat.
- Now take a short walk with both dogs. Begin on separate sides of the street. As the dogs relax, gradually move closer together until side by side.

In the house:

- The first time the dogs are inside the house together, keep them on leash and keep the introduction brief, around 5 minutes. Then confine the newcomer to a comfortable space like a dog-proofed spare room or crate where he can start to get used to his new home.
- Over the next day or two, repeat the brief introductions. Keep them to 5-10 minutes and keep the dogs on leash.
- Make the time the dogs spend together as pleasant as possible. Reward friendly and playful behavior with food treats, praise, and toys.
- Don't be tempted to try longer periods of time if the early introductions go well. Slowly work your way to longer periods of dog-dog time.

With this approach, your new dog should be fully accepted as a family member within a week or two. If things are still not warming up after two weeks, call us for help.

DID YOU KNOW?

How to Say *Dog* in These Languages?

Albanian: Qen
Arabic: Calb
Belarusian: Sabaka
Bengali: Kukur
Blackfoot: Imitáá
Catalan: Gos
Danish: Hund
Dutch: Hond
Eskimo: Kringmerk
French: Chien/ne
Greek: Skylos
Hebrew: Kelev
Italian: Cane
Lithuanian: šuo
Maori: Kuri
Mongolian: Noqai
Polish: Pies
Samoan: Maile
Sepedi: Mpaa
Spanish: Perro
Tagalog: Áso
Urdu: Kutta
Welsh: Ci
Yiddish: Hunt or kelef
Zulu: Inja



A WORLD OF DOGS

The Dogness of Everything

There's a good likelihood you think of your dog as part of the family. More of us than ever tell researchers we do. For that reason it's easy to assume the human-dog bond is stronger now than it's ever been—but is it? Before we had goats and cows to herd, before we had homes to



protect, before we domesticated animals of any other species, dogs were our friends and allies. Archeological finds suggest we often relied on them for our lives. With their superior senses, dogs were our hunting partners, our guards against predators, and our companions on journeys into the proverbial woods of the unknown. So deep and strong was the bond between early humans and early canids that dogs play a major part in every world mythology. The powerful symbolism of dogs—and dogness—suffuses our collective conscious.

In many mythologies, dogs are guides between the worlds of life and death—and symbolically between the conscious mind and the wilderness of the unconscious psyche—as well as co-hunters, able to track and catch human souls. In Greek mythology, the three-headed dog Cerberus (of Harry Potter fame) is the original watchdog of Hades. The virgin-huntress Artemis has seven dogs as her eternal companions. In Norse mythology, Odin's wife Frigga, goddess of marriage, traveled in a chariot drawn by dogs, symbols of fidelity and true-heartedness. Native American folklore includes dogs in both creation stories and end-of-the-world stories. Mostly, dogs appear in legends that reveal human character—kindness to dogs is rewarded and abuse harshly punished.

We may have (mostly) left the myths behind, but dogs are still part of our culture, roaming our thoughts and our language. They still help us navigate the unknown, express our dreams, and make sense of the world—arguably as much as in prehistoric times. We have simply moved them from cave paintings and heavenly constellations into art, film, cartoons, books, and music, not to mention into our homes and onto our couches. And if we sometimes can't tell where we end and dogs begin, who says we have to? Our ancestors never did.

(continued from page 1)



DOGS IN ACTION

Cycling With Your Dog

Think cycling and dogs don't mix? That depends. Yes, just holding a leash while riding a bike is a bad idea—one sudden dog move and you're down. But if you love to ride and would like to share the road with your dog, you have other options. One is a specialized bike leash with a shock-absorbing spring device. A steel clamp attaches to the seat or frame of your bike, with a spring arm for the leash that reduces the impact of a dog's sudden movements by as much as 90%. To find one, just search online for "bicycle leash."



For longer trips—or smaller, less athletic dogs—a better option is one of the many carriers or trailers on the market. Essentially a dog-ified take on the child trailer, these contraptions have reinforced bases that increase stability and safety. Just do your homework and make sure you pick the best model for your dog's size and weight, and the amount of use and type of terrain you expect.

Lastly, there's bikejoring, a version of dryland mushing in which your dog is harnessed to your bike. All you need for that is a padded harness for your dog, a padded belt for you, a gangline—and a dog who loves to pull. First step is to teach your dog to pull—and if you have carefully taught your dog not to pull on leash, don't worry. You can train him to pull only when wearing the harness. For practice, have your dog pull something small like a log before trying small trips with you on a bike.



HEALTHY DOG

Dry Eye

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS), better known as "dry eye," is a common eye condition in dogs. Any dog can develop dry eye, but dogs with big, buggy eyes, such as Pugs, Lhasa Apsos, Pekingese, Boston Terriers, Cocker Spaniels, and English Bulldogs, are extra susceptible. Symptoms include irritation, goopy discharge, excessive blinking, swollen eyelids, and corneal color changes. The condition, which can have numerous causes, results in an inability to produce enough tears to provide nutrients and oxygen to the precorneal tear film. The good news is that most of these causes can be treated on an outpatient basis, often with a topical antibiotic or corticosteroid. The less-good news is that there's no cure for most causes of dry eye, so your dog will need ongoing treatment.

Remember, the first thing to do about any eye-related problem in your dog is to call the vet. Eyes are too sensitive and vulnerable for a wait-and-see approach—better a wasted trip than a blind dog.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Great Dane

Like Danish pastry, the Great Dane is not from Denmark at all. The breed originated in Germany, but has roots in ancient cultures like China and Egypt. Great Danes are often called the Apollos of the dog world because of their regal appearance, but fanciers will tell you "the world's biggest lapdogs" don't stand on ceremony. Great Danes are legendary leaners who enjoy nothing more than to rest their impressive bulk against the legs of their favorite people. Playful and trainable, Great Danes are popular family dogs, but their strength—and guard instincts—shouldn't be underestimated. While not the fastest ball-retrievers, Great Danes still need plenty of exercise. They thrive on the stimulation of fun dog sports like agility, tracking, weight pull, and musical free style. Easygoing Great Danes often make wonderful therapy dogs, too.

To give a Great Dane a home, search online for your local rescue organization.



OUR SERVICES

.....



Spotting Signs of Pain In Your Dog

Masking pain or illness is an evolutionary survival mechanism in dogs, which makes it hard to tell at times whether Fido is unwell. Here are some signs of trouble to look out for (when in doubt, always consult your vet):

Activity level changes: Lethargy, restlessness, or a less cheerful dog can mean something is wrong.

Mood swings: Happy one day, grouchy the next? Pain could be at the root. The same goes for a pup who's happy in the morning, but cranky at night.

Sudden aggression: If an otherwise friendly dog, especially an adult, shows aggression, be sure to include pain as one of the chief suspects.

Loss of appetite: Could be pain, illness, or something less alarming, but a lack of appetite always warrants a trip to the vet.



Tammy Mills, CPDT-KA
214-926-6715
weareallaboutdogs@yahoo.com
www.allabout-dogs.com
Fun & Humane Dog Training

