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# Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers



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fur kid  
**WINTER**  
ready

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of microchipping*

**The Woodrock  
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## PET BRANDS



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# Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers 

*Beautiful Brutes adored  
by Johnathan and  
Rozanne Peyper  
Photographed by  
Riaan van der Merwe*



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# Dog talk



**W**ith winter upon us, I hope everyone is still taking good care of themselves. We remain in the midst of a pandemic, and I get so concerned when I see people out and about socialising without masks or the masks hanging down and covering only their mouths in a muzzle-like fashion. In April last year, we decided that for the sake of my own health (I'm asthmatic) and those with whom I work, and my small business as a whole, we won't be attending meetings, events or expos until this pandemic has passed and the population has received vaccinations. Consequently, we've postponed our Canine Zone Pet Expos until 2022, as we want to keep ourselves, our stand holders and visitors as safe as possible.

In this issue, we feature an article by Tracy McQuarrie from Dogtown in which she talks about how the pandemic has changed rescue. There are so many dogs in shelters, but we've also seen a lot of wonderful adoptions, like those from the Woodrock Pup Pop-Up Adoption Centre.

Did you know that it can take a rescue dog up to three months or longer to settle in? I guess it would be the same as when we move to a new house or job, or even a new school (if you're still in school and a Canine Zone reader!). They need to adjust to an unfamiliar place with new surroundings, new people and new rules. When you adopt from a shelter, the first few weeks can be critical. That's not simply because you and your dog are getting to know each other,

but because those first days and weeks are laying a foundation for your new life together. You'll need to be kind and patient during that time, and before you know it, your new dog will have a strong bond with his or her forever family. And should you require help, you can contact a behaviourist in your area, and Tracy has given the contact details for the Dogtown behaviourists in her article.

With the cold weather upon us, we've included an article on how to keep your dog safe, happy and comfortable. We're strong advocates for dogs sleeping inside, as it keeps the family and the dog safe at night.

This issue is filled with interesting features, like why your dog should be microchipped. There have been so many happy (and fast) reunion stories when dogs have had microchips. One of the first things that a good Samaritan does when picking up a stray dog is to take them to the nearest vet. The first thing the vet does is scan for a microchip and then contact the owners. If the dog doesn't have a microchip, they'll go to the closest SPCA.

Canine Zone magazine is still available at Woolworths, Pick n Pay and Checkers countrywide, along with selected branches of Spar and Exclusive Books. We'll be announcing additional distribution channels soon, but if you can't find a copy of Canine Zone, please visit [www.caninezonesa.co.za](http://www.caninezonesa.co.za) for a full stockist list. And if you find the magazine sold out at your closest stockist, please email us on [marketing@caninezonesa.co.za](mailto:marketing@caninezonesa.co.za) with your contact details and the full name and address of the store so that we can get our distributors to restock. We're extremely excited about the very nice increase in the readership of our digital copies. Visit our website for more details, and click on the link to download your copy.

Remember to keep sending us your photos, stories, and letters and to keep following us on Facebook. Stay warm and enjoy your magazine!

*Sharon*

## Canine Zone

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Published by E-Biz Solutions cc

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# UPFRONT

## GO ONLINE AND SHOP FOR A GOOD CAUSE

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By shopping at the TEARS Online Shop, you aren't only enjoying great savings and a large selection of pet food and products. By choosing to shop with TEARS, you're shopping with your heart. The TEARS Online Shop supports TEARS Animal Rescue in its mission to rescue, rehabilitate, rehome and provide free essential basic veterinary care for animals in

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## DOTSURE.CO.ZA WINS ACCOLADE FROM THEIR FANS!



Each year, The Star holds their annual Reader's Choice Awards – a competition that empowers South African consumers to vote for their favourite brands and service providers based on their levels of customer care. In 2020, dotsure.co.za was voted South Africa's Best

Pet Insurance Company.

What makes this competition so special is that it isn't about brands' budgets, marketing efforts, or ability to impress industry insiders; it's solely focused on the experiences of everyday South Africans.

"This award isn't just about taking home the number one spot," says dotsure.co.za Chief Operating Officer, David Roache, "It stands as a testament to our commitment to creating fans, not policyholders. It's always been our goal to put our customers at the very centre of our business, and this award holds a special place in our hearts because it's a direct result of that dedication."

Upon launching in 2011, dotsure.co.za immediately began disrupting

the insurance industry as a challenger brand. Designed as pet insurance created for animal lovers by animal lovers, they were the first pet insurer in South Africa to cover exotic pets, alongside their leading range of budget-friendly insurance products for dogs and cats. Their love for animals doesn't stop there – each year, dotsure.co.za champions Soft Landings initiatives that mobilise their staff, vet partners, and communities to raise funds for animals in need. In the past two years, they've raised over R1.5 million for the Animal Anti-Cruelty League and continue to feed a shelter puppy for a month each time a pet insurance policy is bought online.

## ZOETIS SA, PAWS 4 U SPREAD SOME LOVE TO UNDER-RECOGNISED HEALTHCARE WORKERS THIS VALENTINE'S DAY



Speak to a Paws 4 U volunteer and they'll tell you that there are few things more fulfilling in life than a frail hand reaching out to stroke their dog's fur, or the smile on the face of a young patient in an oncology ward when a visiting dog puts their head on the bed.

"Therapy dogs bring joy to people who are in need of love and companionship, whether they're in a frail care centre, an orphanage or a hospital," says Eileen Calvert, vice chair/PRO who's been involved with Paws 4 U for 17 years.

"We all know how much we love our pets," says Llewellyn Sinclair, Business Unit Manager: Companion Animals at animal health company Zoetis South Africa. "Organisations such as Paws 4 U bring emotional support and companionship to people who benefit from that connection and delight."

Due to COVID-19, Paws 4 U's volunteers and their dogs cannot currently visit patients and alleviate some of the emotional burden of sole caregivers, but that doesn't mean that

Calvert and her team are stepping away from their roles.

"We work closely with Zoetis, and this year we're focusing on supporting the supporters. While we can't physically enter the facilities we normally support, we can show our appreciation of the frontline workers who are there every day, giving so much of themselves for their patients."

To show their love and support, Zoetis and Paws 4 U delivered 350 Valentine's gifts to the nurses of Donald Gordon Academic Hospital on Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of February.

"Zoetis is a leading advocate of the bond between humans and animals," says Sinclair. "Internationally, Zoetis was the first company to be named Human-Animal Bond Certified by the North American Veterinary Community (NAVCA) and the Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI)."

"Paws 4 U is built on the foundation that animals contribute to our well-being as people," says Sinclair. "We rely on our feline and canine companions for love and friendship,

and they rely on us to look after their health from a young age, firstly because we share our personal spaces with them and so their health affects our own, and secondly because when you look after your companions from kitten or puppy, they live longer and healthier lives. Paws 4 U understands this, promotes it, and takes that companionship into the most heart-wrenching places. It's an honour to support the organisation's volunteers and animals."

Zoetis donates a percentage of each sale of its Simparica Flea and Tick Protection for Dogs to Paws 4 U. This year, these funds will be used to support health workers in select institutions that Paws 4 U supports until volunteers are able to bring their dogs back into hospital wards and orphanages.

"We're all suffering from COVID fatigue, but we're also constantly meeting people who want to help but don't know where to begin," says Calvert. "We encourage animal lovers to invest in the health of their dogs with Simparica, which in turn supports our animals and volunteers."

Purchase Simparica at your local vet or donate directly to Paws 4 U using the below banking details: Account Name: Paws 4 U Therapy Dogs NPC. Account No: 62816023105. Branch code: 250112 Contact: Eileen.calvert1@absamail.co.za for more information.



## UP VETS SAVE LIVES OF DOGS USING GROUNDBREAKING TECHNIQUE IN FIRST FOR ONDERSTEPSPOORT VETERINARY ACADEMIC HOSPITAL



**Specialist surgeons Dr Adriaan Kitshoff and Dr Ross Elliott with Tallen and Daisy**

Two University of Pretoria (UP) veterinary surgeons have performed life-saving heart surgery on two dogs by using a groundbreaking technique. This is a first in the 100-year history of the Faculty of Veterinary Science in Onderstepoort, and an exciting way to start the next century of veterinary service to the country.

Dr Adriaan Kitshoff and Dr Ross Elliott, who are specialist veterinary small animal surgeons working in Small Animal Surgery in the Department of Companion Animal

Clinical Studies, saved the lives of seven-month-old French Bulldog Daisy and a six-month-old Cocker Spaniel called Tallen. Daisy is a service dog that can sense when her owner, who has fibromyalgia, is in pain and sleeps on her as a means of comfort.

The vets used a groundbreaking approach that entails dilating the opening of a heart valve with a balloon. "This procedure is limited to hospitals overseas with surgeons or internists with special interest in cardiology. It's only hospitals that have the equipment that can perform the surgery," they said.

They explained that both their patients have pulmonic valvular stenosis, an abnormally shaped or fused heart valve that's situated between the heart and the artery leading to the lungs. The aim of the surgery for both dogs was to increase the size of the opening by dilating the valve. For this, a long balloon-tipped catheter was placed in one of the neck veins. The vets explained that the anatomy of a dog's heart is similar to that of a human's, also consisting of four chambers and four valves. "This is

probably the reason why most of the clinical trials for heart transplants were performed on dogs. This set the stage for Dr Chris Barnard's first successful heart transplant in 1967."

The implications of the procedure performed are that "we can offer a service not previously offered by Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital. This might be the start of other minimally invasive heart surgeries in the future. This also provides us with the opportunity to extend the life of special pets like these." This innovative surgery also creates the possibility of setting up a centre of excellence in minimal invasive surgery and cardiology at the hospital and offering more advanced surgeries like valve replacements and heart transplants.

Both dogs are doing well after their surgeries but need follow-up heart scans every three months, as in 15% of such cases the stretched opening of the valve can start to narrow again. The surgery was a team effort which included anaesthetists Dr Justin Grace and Dr Abdur Kadwa, theatre nurse Sister Adele Rossouw and theatre assistant Mike Shabangu.

## A POINT TO THE NEW CLUB ON THE BLOCK

BY TINE-MARIE MUDDÉ

Calling all German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP) enthusiasts! Introducing the new KUSA Breed Club: the GSP Gauteng Club. Founded by a group of people who love GSPs and enjoy taking part in various activities with their dogs, their vision is to create a welcoming space for anyone who owns or is thinking of owning a GSP. GSPs are tireless, enthusiastic dogs, suited to a special kind of owner. The Club aims to bring together all manner of GSP-enthusiasts, to sup-

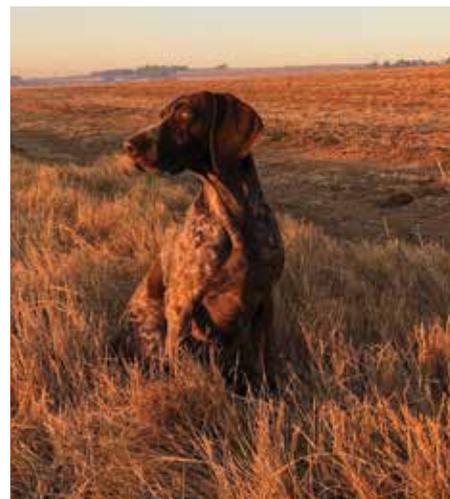
port and learn from each other while partaking in GSP-friendly activities. The Club also aims to promote responsible GSP ownership and uphold the breed standard through education, training, and support. All GSP owners or potential GSP owners are welcome at the Club, no matter where your GSP comes



from, or your field of interest. The Club will assist potential GSP owners in identifying whether this is the right breed for them, and whether we think a rescue or a KUSA-registered GSP is most suitable (strong emphasis is placed on only engaging with responsible, ethical breeders).

Members will be exposed to the various activities that GSPs can take part in, including attending field trials, tracking, agility, obedience, show training, animal-assisted therapy, and training for search and rescue. Being part of the Club will

put owners in contact with experienced trainers and fellow GSP owners. Members will have access to information about GSP-friendly walk venues, training a GSP, owning and handling a GSP, and adopting or buying a GSP. The Club will hold several fun-filled events throughout the year, including information seminars, training days, family fun days and friendly competitions. Visit their Facebook page (@gspgclub), send them an email on gspgclub@gmail.com or call their chairperson on 083 393 0800 for more information or to join.



## SPAY IT FORWARD

BY ELANZA KLOPPERS (DOGTOWN SA)

How do you save 67,000 dogs? The answer is simple: sterilise one. Every year, thousands of puppies and kittens are born into a world where the reality is that there are simply not enough homes. In 2015, Spay It Forward (A DogtownSA initiative) was born.

The concept is simple. Each person who donates or sponsors a sterilisation starts a ripple effect of kindness by spaying it forward. Our donors/sponsors are encouraged to spread the word and in doing so getting just one other person to do the same. Our focus is primarily divided between assisting families who genuinely can't afford to have their pets sterilised and TNR programmes for feral cats. To date, we've funded/partially funded the sterilisations of over 800 dogs and cats all over South Africa. But we can't continue to do this without your support.

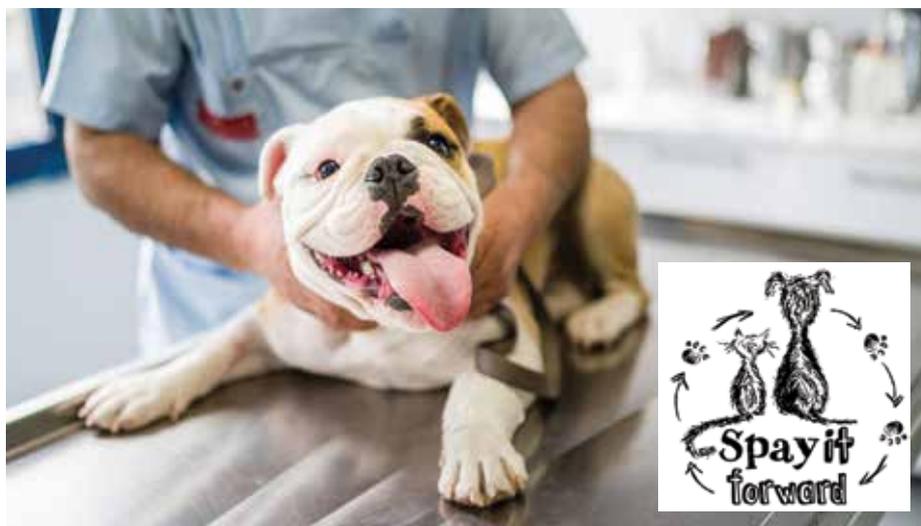
Did you know? One female dog and her mate, and all her puppies – if none are ever sterilised – can lead to almost 67,000 dogs in just six years. That's the sad but brutal reality, but you can make a difference!

In support of World Spay Day, which was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, Spay It Forward partnered with

various veterinary clinics in our area, which made it possible to offer reduced sterilisation rates to our immediate community. The response was overwhelming, and we're proud to announce that we were able to arrange the sterilisation of 153 dogs and cats, many of which were sponsored by us entirely.

Countless lives have been saved by this campaign, and we're eternally grateful to every single veterinary practice who welcomes these initiatives. We're grateful to every family who approached us and made use of this opportunity to do right by their pets. But our biggest gratitude

goes to every single person who's donated towards or sponsored a sterilisation. Without your support, Spay It Forward wouldn't be able to help those who really need it. Thank you for changing thousands of lives with every single donation you make; thank you for spaying it forward. You too can help. Please donate directly into our account, but please remember to let us know about your kind donation so that we can thank you. Email [spayitforward@dogtownsa.org](mailto:spayitforward@dogtownsa.org). Account Name: Spay It Forward, Bank: FNB, Account Number: 62232149121, Branch Code: 254005.



## DOG WALK PARK AND DOG CAFÉ

Ark Walk Park offers a 23-acre picturesque dog- and family-friendly park. Just five minutes from Dainfern/Fourways, you and your dogs can enjoy a fun-filled day in a beautiful and tranquil environment. Featuring three dog-swimming dams, a 2.5km walking track, Discovery – MyRun, and a Woodrock Pup Pop-Up Adoption Centre and charity shop, the Ark Walk Park is open seven days a week from sunrise to sunset.

Heart of Suburbia is located in Ark Walk Park, offering delicious all-day breakfasts, burgers, waffles, pancakes and the best Freezochinos crafted to perfection! A dog café offering a dine-in restaurant for you

and your fur kid. Heart of Suburbia offers a dog menu, dog waiters, a dog menu and doggy bags, and is open from 8am to 4pm daily. R20 entrance for adults and R10 for children and pensioners. Located in Ark Walk Park, 17 Howard Avenue, Chartwell, Johannesburg. Email [info@heartof-suburbia.co.za](mailto:info@heartof-suburbia.co.za) for more information.



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# Your Photos



**CHUCKLES** is our much-loved Jack Russell cross. – **JESSICA RAMLUCKAN**



**BRUTUS** – Brutus has been keeping himself busy at home with his many antics. – **RETA SEWDAN**



**MILO** is our nine-year-old Dachshund who's such a character. Here he is living his best life! – **CECILIA DE VILLIERS**



**BUKSIE** – Little Buksie just wants to pop in to say hi to all your readers! – **CHANTELLE-LOUISE WATSON**



**KODA, CUBA & TYSON** - "Paws what you're doing right now, and look at us!" These are our three Pit Bull children. They get along so well and we adore them. – **TENEAL CAREY JEAN-PIERRE**



**MAX** is our loveable Pug. He enjoys his naps, barking at anything he sees, and being around his family who give him lots of love and cuddles. – **CHERNE KOEKEMOER**

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



Brought to you by



**MARLEY** – Our new baby settled in nicely when we brought him home. In a short period of time, he was already chasing the cats around like he owns the house. – **SHIMONE PRETORIUS**

**LUNAR** – Meet my best friend, Lunar. I love her so much. She loves doing Bully spins in the house, cuddling and making friends. – **TIFFANY DANIELL** (8 years old)



**BENJI** – Meet Benji van Wyk! He's a little Yorkie and is three-and-a-half years old. Here he is saying: "Did you say I'm your handsome little boy, mommy?" – **TERSIA VAN WYK**



**JACK** – We found Jack at the SPCA when looking for a replacement for our Ridgeback that had passed away. He sold himself to us because he was so friendly and really made a huge effort to climb through, around, and under the cage bars to lick us and get to us. He's a real character. – **ANTHONY BERRANGE**



**CHLOE** is very energetic and never likes to sit down! She knows a few tricks like sit and paw. She's a Labrador and her favourite things are tennis balls and swimming. – **NATALIE, EMILY AND LAURA MULLER**

# Help!



**GOT A QUESTION?**

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

## OUR DOG IS A HEEL BITER



*Lisa is my daughter Kaley's Yorkshire Terrier. She joined the family in December when her grandparents,*

*without consulting me, bought this little dog for her as a Christmas gift. We all love Lisa to bits, but she has a habit of running after everyone and biting our heels. It's very painful and she's drawn blood when we've been wearing sandals or are barefoot. The strange thing is that she doesn't bite my*

*daughter's ankles. What should we do to stop this from happening? We're tired of having to jump around the house and*

*side-stepping to avoid being bitten.*

– ANONYMOUS

**JULIE SAYS** – Little Lisa thinks that foot and ankle grabbing is fun and a game. Many puppies do this, so Lisa isn't abnormal in any way. In order to stop the behaviour now, you'd need to stop walking the instant that she does this, keep your feet still, and use a NO command (that Lisa understands). So, you're really ignoring the behaviour in order not to escalate it into a bigger game. Teach Lisa other fun games that can redirect her attention from feet onto something else. Enrolling at a reputable puppy school will aid both humans and Lisa in setting boundaries of what are acceptable behaviours.

## ARE WE DEPRIVING OUR DOGS?

*You read everywhere that dogs should be taken for a walk, sometimes twice a day. My partner and I have our own business which we run from home, so our three dogs are with us all the time. We do take a half an hour at the end of the day to throw a ball for them and play with them, but we've been feeling guilty because we don't take them for walks or to dog parks. We live in a busy neighbourhood with no dog-friendly parks near us, but we want our dogs to live their best lives. We love our dogs so much but worry that we're doing them wrong by not taking them out every day.*

– ADHIRA PILLAY

**JULIE SAYS** – I don't think you're depriving your dogs at all. Some outside stimulation is beneficial for all dogs, and it could be once or twice a week. If they enjoy the car, you could do a car

ride when convenient. In order to avoid boredom and under-stimulation, dogs can be taught other games (not just throwing a ball) – an example is hide and seek (which is fun for everyone). Dogs can also be given loads of environmental enrichment (hiding yummy treats in a box), which keeps them occupied and stimulated. It also gives them something else to do whilst you and your partner are working.



## PREPARING FOR A PUPPY

*After much discussion in our family and planning, we've decided to adopt a puppy from a rescue organisation. We're a family of four and I'm fortunate to be allowed to work from home. We have everything ready, but the one problem I'm concerned about is the chewing of our carpets, shoes, and other household items. I know all puppies need to chew, but is there any way we can make sure that our little guy won't damage valuable items?* – **LARA FLEMMING**

**CAITLIN SAYS** – Congratulations on the exciting decision to bring a new family member into your home! The first way that you can prevent chewing on valuables is through management – make sure you've lifted as many loose items as possible. This includes low-lying cables, books, toys, cushions, clothing, remotes, and rugs. The entire family

needs to be on board; everything on the floor is fair game, so be sure to tidy up. Of course, carpets and furniture can't be removed, so you need to give your puppy a lot of appropriate outlets for his chewing. Keep a box of chewable items in each room and rotate them for the puppy to enjoy. Destructible items like toilet paper rolls and plastic bottles with the lids removed are especially fun! If you see the puppy chewing on something he shouldn't, gently redirect him to a more appropriate toy or chew. Remember that puppies will find fun things to do if fun activities aren't provided, and if the puppy gets your attention every time he chews the wrong things, he'll find that valuable, so rather make a fuss over him when he's chewing the right things! Appropriate chewing is important for stress release,

even when the puppy grows up. When a puppy is engaged in chewing, they need to be supervised, as some treats and toys can break into small pieces and pose a risk of being swallowed. Avoid rawhide or any chews that become stringy when chewed.



## OUR DOG DOESN'T LIKE BEING TOUCHED



*We have a two-year-old Labrador cross named Stormi who's been neutered. The neutering process was very traumatic, with him pulling out his stitches, and since then he doesn't like to be touched on his tail area or on his feet. This is a problem now, as when we take him to the vet he has to be sedated and muzzled as he'll snap at the vet. Is there anything we can do about this, or is this*

*just something we have to live with?* – **MORGANA CALDWELL**

**CAITLIN SAYS** – It sounds as though Stormi has indeed been traumatised – sometimes a single scary or painful event is enough to cause lasting phobias. There are definitely things that you can start doing to build his confidence when being handled and at the vet. First

off, try and do some vet visits where you only enter the reception and choose a nice treat or toy for him. You could build this up to Stormi entering a consulting room and receiving treats from the vet or scattered on the floor. At home, you can begin desensitising him to being touched. Gently touch near his tail or paws (where he still feels comfortable) and reward him. Gradually move closer

to the areas that bother him, remaining calm and rewarding him for allowing you to touch. Increase the pressure or duration of the interaction, hopefully working him up to feeling comfortable being handled by family members. Find a cooperative vet who'll work on building a relationship of trust with Stormi, following the above steps. When Stormi is being handled by the vet, do your best to keep him calm and focused on you. You can consider a calming medication (non-sedative) from your vet to assist before a visit. These things take time and effort, but if he still finds vet visits unbearably stressful, it might be kinder to sedate him to avoid stressing him out to the point that he feels he needs to snap.

# It's Not Just How You Raise Them

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



**H**umans raised him this way. She's pulling because she hasn't been taught well. If you raise them with love, they'll be loving in return.

Sound familiar? The “Nature versus Nurture” debate – is your dog's behaviour just the way he is, or was it his upbringing that led him to behave in a certain way?

When a Border Collie herds a group of children, everyone agrees that it's part of their fundamental breed characteristics. We're happy to accept that Labradors love having something

to carry, because they're born to be retrievers. If a Pointer stands in the tell-tale point – front leg up, tail straightened, nose forward – they're simply doing what a hundred years of breeding have led them to do. Of course, not all Huskies are destined to pull relentlessly when on a leash, many Terriers prefer napping rather than hunting, and some Hounds may never engage their noses to a scent trail. So, what influences your dog's behaviour? Which factors are in our control, and which are not? Can inherited behaviours be changed? And can the behaviour of a crossbreed dog be reliably predicted based on their suspected parentage?

## NATURE

The fact is that certain breeds are bred for certain traits. From birth, these puppies are more likely to display behaviours that are true to their breeds. This can be compared to a freight train – the tracks are already there; it only takes one opportunity or experience to “unlock” the pathway and form a connection, creating a pattern of behaviour that becomes instinctual to a dog. Every time the pathway is used, it becomes increasingly easier for a dog to revert to that behaviour. If a dog isn't genetically predisposed to certain behaviours, the train track isn't there, and it'll take a greater effort and input to

## Is your dog's behaviour just the way he is, or was it his upbringing that led him to behave in a certain way?

build the track before the train can travel the route and a behaviour becomes “hard-wired”.

This is why it may be nearly impossible for a Husky to learn to herd, or to prevent a Collie from unlocking their innate herding behaviours. Still, all dogs are individuals, and there may be as much difference between the personality of two dogs of the same litter as two dogs from entirely different breeds.

### WHAT ABOUT CROSSBREEDS?

Puppies from parents of known breed or temperament generally inherit an even mix of personality traits from both parents. Puppies born from crossbreed parents may randomly inherit traits from either parent or dominant breeds further back in the lineage, making it trickier to predict their behaviour. A crossbreed's physical appearance is also not necessarily a reliable indicator as to the behaviours they may have inherited. Whilst suspected parentage may give us some clues, crossbreeds are usually a delightful mix of sugar and spice, with unique personalities and quirks – which makes adopting one a life-long adventure!

### NURTURE

The above being said, the way that a dog is raised, and the experiences (or lack of experiences) that they have, has an important influence on the behaviour of a dog and their outlook on life.

Their nature plays a significant role in how their upbringing will affect their behaviour.

### EARLY EXPERIENCES

The “Socialisation Window” is a formative period of a puppy's life that will have an impact on their behaviour. If a young puppy doesn't meet many adult men, they may tend towards being nervous of adult men in the future.

After around four months of age, a puppy is more likely to regard new experiences with caution and it may be challenging to unlock the neural pathways to form positive associations. It's often assumed that dogs who are nervous of something must have been abused or had a negative experience, but it's equally likely, if not more so, that they simply missed out on a positive experience.

### ONCE-OFF EXPERIENCES

Sometimes, a single positive or negative experience is enough to cause a life-long behaviour change. A scary experience at a critical time, in a dog who's inclined to be fearful, may result in a life-long fear or phobia that

will need management or behavioural modification.

### HEALTH

Pain, discomfort and disease can all affect a dog's behaviour. A dog with internal parasites may be unable to control themselves around food, because they're hungry. A dog in pain may act “out of character”. Some illnesses can affect how a dog feels in their day-to-day life, leading to changes in their behaviour. This is why it's important to maintain regular health checks at your veterinarian.

In conclusion, both genetics as well as upbringing and experience shape our canine companions' personalities. Some of these influences are in our control, and it's important to set our dogs up for success in their interactions with the world; the traits that they inherit from birth may be there for life, waiting to be unlocked. Always seek professional advice when working to change the way that a dog behaves. 🐾



# Pup Pop-Up Initiative

By Lauri-Leah Momberg



In September 2020, Woodrock Animal Rescue were given the opportunity to showcase some of their dogs at a regular pop-up adoption venue. According to Woodrock co-founder Estelle Meldau, their tails took off in full elation and they jumped in circles at this incredible “unprecedented” opportunity!

The flagship Woodrock Pup Pop-Up initiative at The Garden Shop, Parktown North, has proven to be an absolutely resounding success, providing a beautiful, secure, spacious and welcoming setting that provides the perfect outdoor platform for the introduction to your next furry family member. The success of this first remote venue has sparked further interest and another opportunity for a second pop-up adoption centre. Woodrock are proud to once again be partnering with their fellow animal rescue supporters, ARK Animal Rescue, whose facility houses an incredible Walk Park. This will become home to Woodrock’s second Pup Pop-Up adoption centre, and we have no doubt it will be as much of a roaring success as the first – helping find homes for countless furry friends in need. The kindness and generosity of Woodrock’s partners in this endeavour to get the project finalised has been overwhelming, and Woodrock are deeply grateful to The Garden Shop Parktown North, Marltons, and Lionel’s Choice.

Canine Zone caught up with the Pup Pop-Up Team, led by Jacqui Martheze, to find out more.

**CZ** – How is the Woodrock Pup Pop-Up different to the main Woodrock Animal Rescue shelter?

**JM** – Woodrock’s main facility is located in Hennops River Valley, which is 40 minutes from Johannesburg. Many people aren’t able to find the time or transport to visit, so the satellite location provides this convenience for those based in the northern suburbs. The Garden Shop is also a more natural, home-style setting. At this location, we showcase fifteen handpicked dogs each weekend, giving them a better opportunity at finding a home. Also due to large numbers at the main shelter, sometimes beautiful dogs get overlooked.



## *Making adoption a wonderful experience for everyone*



**CZ** – Is the adoption process different?

**JM** – The process is exactly the same. We're fortunate enough to have experienced kennel handlers who facilitate meet-and-greets and advise on prospective adoptees. A home check is then done and then the fur baby, which has been vaccinated, microchipped and sterilised, is collected. We also follow up and keep in touch with our adoptive parents – extending the Woodrock family. To date, we've successfully rehomed approximately 80 dogs.

**CZ** – Community involvement is an integral aspect of the Pop-Up experience, especially with regards to your volunteer programme. Can you tell us why there's such a strong focus on education at the Pop-Up?

**JM** – By training the youth to advocate for animals in need, we extend our reach not only for the shelter and the work that we do, but for responsible pet ownership. Also, we're hugely passionate about empowering the youth to feel that they have the power to make a change through charity. We're fortunate enough to get many local school-goers volunteering their time for community service as well, which again keeps us closely aligned with our supporters.

**CZ** – Why do you think the Pop-Up concept has been such a roaring success?

**JM** – For a multitude of reasons, but essentially it's a happy, upbeat space, largely thanks to our generous partners. Apart from the space, the dogs and people interact in a fun, laid-back and natural way, and we most definitely think this contributes to our

adoption success rate and why we have repeat visitors who pop in to say hi to different dogs each week. In fact, the Pop-Up has become a weekly visit for many who find great joy in being able to socialise with others, and the benefit is that it's COVID-19 safe socialisation.

**CZ** – What are your future goals for Woodrock Pup Pop-Up?

**JM** – We're very excited to partner with the lovely people at Ark Animal Rescue at their location. The setting is perfect, and we can't wait to successfully rehome more of our beautiful dogs. Please check out our Facebook page to see how you can get involved! 🐾



# Saving Precious Puppies

By Wendy Scheepers & the TEARS team



***Surviving so many health issues and given a new chance at a wonderful life***

**T**hando, Niah and Amari were rescued from a low-income community by the TEARS Animal Rescue Mobile Clinic. The three puppies were skeletal and absolutely covered from their heads to their tiny toes in mange.

When examined by the TEARS Welfare Clinic veterinary team, it was found that the pups were approximately two months old and had probably suffered with mange their entire lives. They were malnourished and their skin was a constant irritation to them.

The three began treatment for mange while enjoying regular meals and loads of TLC.

Unfortunately, a few days after arriving at TEARS, it was clear when Niah fell sick with the highly contagious and lethal parvovirus that he'd been incubating the virus for some time before his rescue. Very soon, all three puppies were fighting for their lives.

## **GETTING THE TLC THEY DESERVED**

The puppies were treated and moved into foster care for more monitored human and IV care in the hope that their treatment would see them survive. Parvo virus kills 95% of unvaccinated and untreated dogs. If, like Niah, Thando and Amari, unvaccinated dogs are lucky enough to access the expensive treatment, then

their chances of survival increase slightly to about 40%. A vaccinated dog who does fall ill has nearly a 100% chance of survival, unless the dog has a comorbidity. Fortunately, Niah came through it. Then Thando too got better. Sadly, little Amari was just too weak to fight the virus after being malnourished and compromised by mange. As her chance of survival began to diminish, we made the humane decision to say goodbye to spare her further suffering.

Thando and Niah recovered and returned to TEARS to continue their quarantine period. They were spoiled with lots of baths and nice, nutritious puppy food, and we were all smitten with them.

## **FOREVER HOMES**

The two pups are now approximately seven months old. Niah quickly found a wonderful home, and her life has truly been transformed! Thando's still looking for a home. He's a total lovebug who adores people and can't wait to shower you with kisses. He's a Dachshund mix and will grow up to be a medium dog.

The public's support allows TEARS to continue to give puppies like Thando and Niah another chance at a good life. Diseases like parvo can be prevented and eventually eliminated in areas with vaccination programmes. Last year, TEARS vaccinated 1,340 companion animals. Donate today to help us reach more. Visit [www.tears.org.za/donate](http://www.tears.org.za/donate) for more information. 🐾

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**bites 30c** serious bites, i.e. spider, scorpion, snake & dog bite.

**boils & abscesses 6c** boils, abscesses & ulcers (can push out splinters).

**calming 30c** general calmative - helps reduce anxiety & cope with stressful situations.

**cystitis 30c** acute bladder infection, frequent burning urination - often involuntary.

**dermatitis complex 12c** general skin conditions, incl. mange, dermatitis, eczema, dry unhealthy stinging, itching & burning skin.

**d.v.c. 30c (diarrhoea, vomiting & cramping)** gastro-intestinal symptoms & dehydration.

**fracture/osteo 30c** bone & teeth maintenance - repair of fractured bones.

**haematonic 6c** general blood tonic. Excellent in recuperative situations e.g. post biliary & post-op.

**hayfever 6c** itchy eyes & nose, sneezing with watery discharges.

**injury 6c** bruises, sprains, muscle strain, nerve & crush injuries. Shock of accident.

**kennel cough & cold 30c** chest symptoms, including cough, cold & fever.

**muco drainol 30c** drains thick mucous from chest, nose, eyes and ears.

**otitis 30c (ears)** general ear conditions; ear canker, otitis externa, pain & itching.

**ringworm/fungal 12c** skin & hoof conditions caused by ringworm fungi; itching, irritation & hair loss.

**renal 12c** kidney & bladder issues of a more chronic nature.

**snuffles complex 12c (cats)** specifically to treat the associated symptoms & conditions of cat rhinotracheitis.

**sting & itch 30c** insect stings & bites. Itchy skin of an allergic nature.

**throat 30c** sore, inflamed, infected throats.

**travel sickness 30c** nausea, vomiting & vertigo associated with motion.

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# Time to Pivot

By Tracy McQuarrie (Dogtown SA)

Photography by Andre Kockemoer



**T**he word “pivot” is not only the best scene in the TV show Friends. It’s what we’re all doing, consciously or not. The Pandemic has changed us all. The way we work, the way we socialise, and the way we rescue have all changed.

Most shelters saw an increase in adoptions and, sadly, also an increase in surrenders. Most surrenders have come from people downsizing or moving overseas and not taking their dogs with them.

In rescue we work with many types of dogs. Those we rescue from the streets or dire situations often adapt to shelter life. Probably because it’s the best

they’ve ever known. They don’t have to risk their lives daily to try and stop the pain of their empty stomachs. However, those dogs that have lived a long, happy life in a family home struggle in a shelter. They don’t understand what’s happened. All we can do is try our best to make their days fun and keep their minds off what they’ve lost and get them into a new family as soon as possible.

## WORRYING TRENDS

The worrying trend is that so many of those being abandoned and surrendered are large breed dogs. Complexes not allowing large breed dogs is a huge problem, and also people thinking a large breed dog can’t live in a smaller place, yet there are

millions of dogs living in flats and small gardens around the world.

I’m sitting here typing this with all my dogs on the couch around me. I have a big garden they could be playing in, but the truth of the matter is they want to be with us, their humans. They don’t care what size the garden is. As long as you give them attention, take them out for walks, and give them great enrichment activities throughout the day, they’d be as happy as Larry.

## CHANGING OUR WAY OF THINKING

We need to change our way of thinking what a dog needs. Your companionship is the top of their list of favourite things in life. We need to find a way of keeping dogs with their families, and Dogtown is dedicated to helping families in these hard times to keep their beloved pets. Large dogs need love too, and with fewer people adopting large breed dogs, please think hard and carefully before surrendering your large breed dogs.

When we all start heading back to work and, unfortunately, the working from home era is over, it’s going to be difficult for our pets. When I say pets, I’m thinking dogs – I think most cats are quite annoyed to have us around so much!

Our dogs are thriving having us around all day; even if, like mine, yours are just passed out on the

## We need to stop people giving up on their dogs

couch next to you, they're relaxed in the knowledge that their family are here with them. They don't care that it's a beautiful day outside – they're just happy you're there.

Sadly, we're all going to have to prepare our dogs for that dreaded day we have to resume office duties if your boss won't let you work from home. If you're seeing that your dogs have become quite clingy during lockdown, chat to your local behaviourist or email [info@dogtownsa.org](mailto:info@dogtownsa.org) for advice on how you can start preparing your dog for when you return to work.

A recent American study showed that 75% of people would return their dog if there are problems after going back to work. Now, if you look at any shelter at the moment here in South Africa, they're bursting at the seams already, and if SA was to follow that awful study result, it would just about collapse the system.

We need to stop people giving up on their dogs. We don't need to judge people – we need to help and guide them. More often than not, our behaviourists can help families with minor behavioural issues that are fixed easily and quickly by professionals in their

field. To the family the problem was overwhelming, but when they see how the help we provide can deal with the issue, and they're no longer annoyed by their dog's behaviour, the room to bond and build that unconditional love relationship is free to bloom.

Don't be afraid to reach out for help. More often than not, your dog's not a delinquent – they just don't understand what's expected of them. Let's join together and help our dogs. If you'd like to support Dogtown SA, visit [dogtownsa.org](http://dogtownsa.org) or email [info@dogtownsa.org](mailto:info@dogtownsa.org) 

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# HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR BOND WITH YOUR DOG...

*By Adam Bailey*



**L**et me start with a story – so get the tissues ready. In 1924, a Japanese professor named Hidesaburo Ueno would each morning say goodbye to his dog, Hachiko, then walk to the train station to head for work. At three o’clock, Ueno would return home to find Hachiko sitting by the tracks, waiting for him. Every day for over a year, the big Akita would be there, waiting.

On a day in May of 1925, Hachiko walked as usual down to the station to wait for Ueno’s return. But, sadly, the professor had suffered a fatal cerebral haemorrhage at his school that day. He’d never again return to his faithful Hachiko.

Though given to another family, Hachiko escaped each day and returned to the professor’s home in

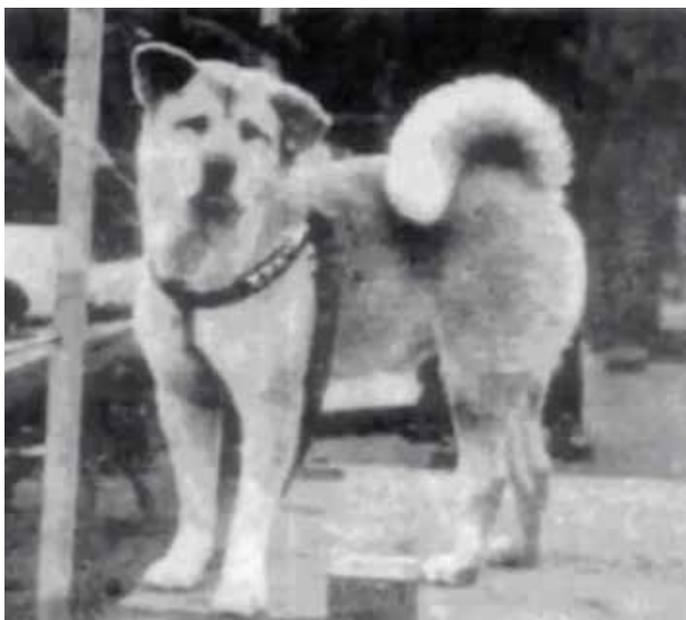
hopes of finding him. When this failed, the dog began the old ritual again, arriving each day at the station at precisely three o’clock, to wait. Hachiko did this every day for the next ten years until his death.

Although they might seem like the same thing, loving your dog and bonding with your dog are distinct parts of the human-pet relationship. The love between dog and pet parent develops naturally. Love is what makes your dog joyfully leap on you when you get home at the end of the day, and why he wants to snuggle up to you on the couch every night.

The bond takes all of that love a step further. A bonded dog-human relationship is one that’s steeped in equal parts of mutual trust and respect. A strong bond is essentially the glue of your

## *Having a bond with a dog is one of the most wonderful things that you can experience in your lifetime*

relationship. It's what keeps your dog from running away without a backwards glance when you forget to shut the front door, and it's the reason he listens when you ask him to do something. The bond encourages attentiveness, good manners and partnership.



### **AN ANCIENT BOND**

Hachiko's incredible connection to Ueno is an example of the compelling power of the human/canine bond. But there are thousands of other stories of canine loyalty, like dogs who travel thousands of miles to rejoin their lost families; dogs who save drowning people; military dogs who sacrifice themselves to save their human partners; dogs who pull people from burning homes.

So, what is this wonderful bond? Is it simply a desire to guarantee food and a place to sleep? Is it obedience? Is it love? The human/canine bond is an ancient one. For over 20,000 years, we've bred dogs not only for hunting, herding, protection, and companionship, but also for loyalty, devotion, and emotional support. Something not often seen in any other two species as we're emotionally closer to dogs.

### **THE WORKING BOND**

Different factors contribute to the existence of the human/canine bond that's sometimes seen more clearly in therapy and working dogs like search and rescue dogs, police dogs, military dogs and herding dogs – where we see this wonderful bond in all its glory.

### **CAN THE BOND BE BROKEN?**

Although dogs live in the moment and do forgive, if you don't give your dog care, affection, routine, training, boundaries and dependability, you can weaken the bond. Ignore, neglect or abuse a dog and there'll be no bond between a dog and owner/caregiver.

### **HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE BOND...**

It's actually very easy to build a bond between you and your dog. One of the easiest ways is to simply spend time together – playing, walking, grooming or even cuddling on the couch will create a strong bond. Doing obedience training with your dog develops the trust and confidence necessary for your dog to feel a strong bond with you. Remember that a strong bond can only be built over time. It's not going to happen immediately or if you only give your dog attention once a week! Also don't forget that rescued dogs may need a little more time to build a bond with humans if they've been abandoned or mistreated before.

The following are tried and tested ways to improve your bond with your dog.

- **Spend time together** – A relationship is about being with one another and sharing experiences.
- **Communicate clearly** – Misunderstandings and confusion are the enemies of good relationships, so be as clear as you can when you communicate with your dog, and be consistent with your training signals.
- **Train your dog** – Well-trained dogs are allowed greater freedom and spend more enjoyable time with you, your family, visitors to your home, and the public.



- **Play** – “The family that plays together stays together” is an old saying that applies to your relationship with your dog too! Playing games and having fun strengthen your bond.
- **Never lose your temper** – Never shout or scream at or punish your dog physically. Practise positive reinforcement training and always keep calm in your dealings with your fur kids. Don’t forget, dogs pick up moods very quickly.
- **Learn about your dog** – There are a wide variety of books available, and the internet is full of interesting articles about dogs. Learning to understand dog behaviour and body language will help your relationship with your dog.
- **Get physical with your dog** – There’s strong evidence that physical contact such as grooming and petting lowers

stress in shelter dogs, which is measured by reductions in both heart rate and the stress hormone cortisol, as well as by an increase in the anti-stress hormone oxytocin. This has led researchers to believe that physical contact plays a role in enhancing the bond between people and dogs.

- **Talk to your dog** – Bonding with your dog can be as simple as talking to him. Did you know that reading aloud is frequently used to help shelter dogs build relationships with people while reducing their stress?

### **SIGNS THAT YOUR BOND ISN'T AS STRONG AS IT SHOULD BE**

Signs of a weak bond include:

- Aggression towards you
- Depression or lethargic behaviour
- Emotional indifference to you or others in the family
- A failure to respond to

commands, especially the recall command

- A lack of desire to play
- A distaste for being handled
- Regular attempts to run off
- Poor focus and eye contact

### **SIGNS OF A STRONG BOND**

It’s easy to see if a dog has a bond with someone, for example:

- The dog will wag its tail, lean on or rub into you, have a brightness in his or her eyes and may even vocalise joy to see you
- Wanting physical interaction
- Frequently checking to see where you are
- Obeying commands immediately and happily
- Always checking where you are when off-leash at a park or on the beach
- Being excited to find you if you play a game of hide and seek
- Always wants to be near you
- Looking at you often
- Strong ability to communicate needs, wants, and concerns
- A willingness to protect or help you in a threatening situation
- Always comes when called

Having a bond with a dog is one of the most wonderful things that you can experience in life.

If you’re doing all you can to achieve that bond, consult with a behaviourist in your area who can assess your relationship and help you to become closer with your canine fur kid. 🐕

# Thinking of trying CBD for your dog?

By Matthew Liechti

**Although CBD is not a miracle drug, it has been shown to offer a wide array of benefits**

**W**ith all the hype surrounding CBD, and it being touted by many as a “Miracle Cure” for every ailment under the sun, it’s hard to cut through all the misinformation.

## WHAT IS CBD?

CBD, or Cannabidiol, is a chemical compound that’s found in the cannabis plant. CBD is one of 113 cannabinoids found in the cannabis plant and interacts with the Endocannabinoid System (ECS) found in all mammals, which includes you and your pets. The bodies of animals (and humans) have an internal signalling system known as the Endocannabinoid System (ECS). Experts believe the ECS maintains homeostasis – a state of steady internal, physical, and chemical conditions.

## WILL CBD MAKE MY DOG HIGH?

CBD is being more widely researched, with a growing body of evidence that shows the health benefits associated with the cannabinoid. It’s non-psychoactive, meaning it won’t get your dog (or you) high.

## IS CBD SAFE FOR MY DOG?

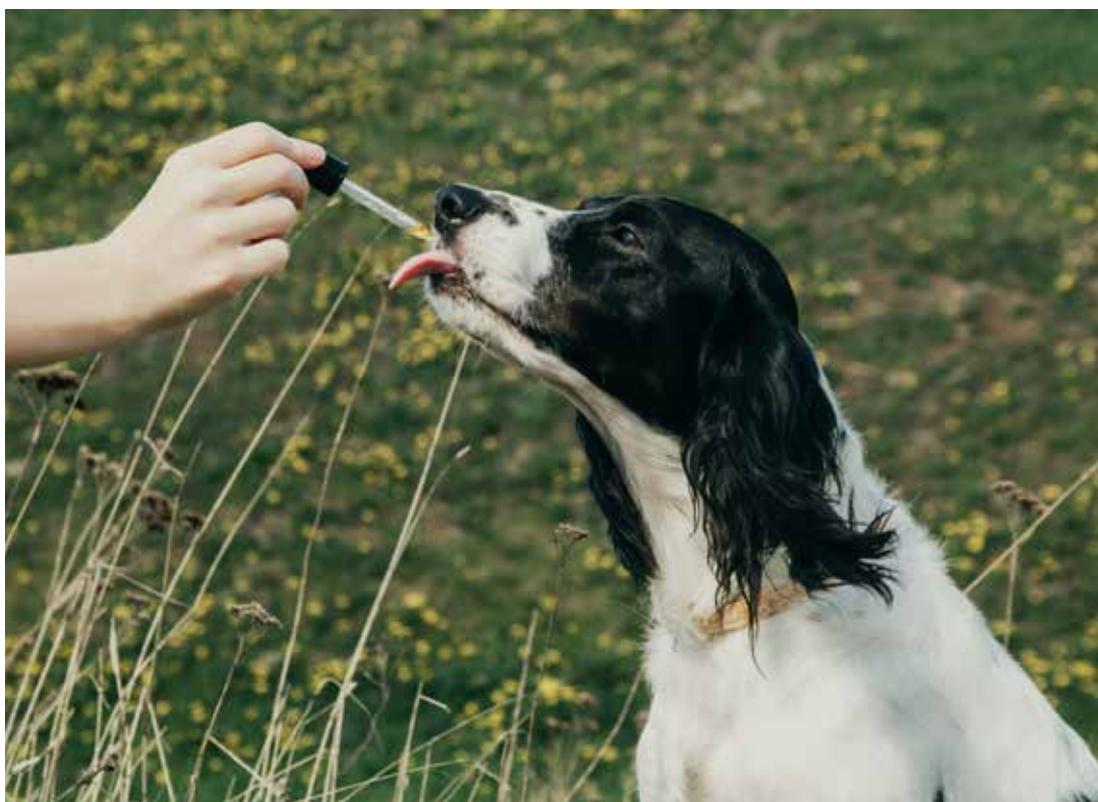
Studies have shown that CBD is well tolerated by dogs and can be safely administered up to 8mg/kg, which is eight times higher than the legal limit in South Africa. It is, however, important to request to see test certificates from manufacturers or brands to ensure THC levels are below 0.001%. When it comes to our furry companions, extra vigilance is required with regards to the products we administer to them. Dogs, for example, don’t tolerate tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC (this is the compound found in cannabis that gives humans the well-documented “high”). Dogs can suffer from THC toxicity

poisoning, so please take care when choosing a product for your pet.

## HOW CAN CBD BENEFIT MY PET?

Although CBD is not a miracle drug, it has been shown to offer a wide array of benefits. When taken orally as an oil, it can assist with pain, inflammation, arthritis, anxiety and stress, and reducing the frequency and severity of seizures. When applied topically, CBD can assist with reducing the effect of certain skin conditions, skin irritations, heat rashes, and allergic reactions.

Should you have any questions or queries, please direct them to [info@cannable.co.za](mailto:info@cannable.co.za) 🐾



# Lucky Lulu

By Anneke Van Zyl



someone who saw a dog looking “like a little jackal” running next to the main road to Doringbaai, a neighbouring town eight kilometres away. I dismissed this, as Lulu would “never ever” run that far – she just wouldn’t go to big unknown open spaces. I realised later that you only know your animal’s behaviour in your own safe environment, not when they’re stressed out, lost and in survival mode.

I contacted two animal communicators and then a third one. I followed up on every lead and phoned people to ask about certain landmarks. After about a week, everyone knew about the missing

dog, even in Doringbaai, where we handed out flyers. Daily I walked the streets of Strandfontein, checked every house (mostly locked up as it’s mainly a holiday town), calling her name all the time. I also gave flyers to SAPS patrol vans that service both Doringbaai and Strandfontein. Twice I put advertisements in the local newspaper, but with no response.

## A SIGHTING!

Four weeks after going missing, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, someone saw her running in the veld in Doringbaai. We went there immediately – and I saw her! I called her and started running towards her, but she just kept on running away, totally traumatised and very scared. We eventually had a whole search party going with children from the neighbourhood, but she’d again disappeared into thin air. One of the kids mentioned that she was at someone’s house in the township – so I hoped that she was being fed and that she had a dry warm bed at night.

## MISSING MY LULU

Walking daily with Nina on the beach, wondering where Lulu was, was one of the most painful experiences I’ve ever had. Tears would just run down my cheeks for no reason – I was so sad and

**W**e arrived in Strandfontein (Matzikama District) West Coast on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. On the Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup>, we had four workmen moving furniture around and I closed my two little dogs, Nina and Lulu, in the laundry and backyard. We were confident that they wouldn’t get out from there.

Around 10:00 in the morning, I realised that Lulu was missing. I ran around the house calling her, and one of the workers mentioned that she’d been in the garage a while ago. Everyone started looking for her – it was obvious that she couldn’t be far, as she didn’t know the area. Talk about wishful thinking!

## MY WORST NIGHTMARE

Lulu was nowhere to be found. I left her blanket in front of the garage in case she came walking past. The nights here aren’t as cold as in Johannesburg, but these little ones get tucked in at night with warm blankets. I hope to never again experience the stress and anxiety I felt every day, especially as it was getting dark and I still didn’t know where she was.

Lulu’s picture was posted on the local WhatsApp group; a friend made some flyers which we stuck up at the Café and handed out to whomever we saw, offering a reward. We received a call from



## *Little Lulu was lost for over seven months before she was found and returned home*

angry at the same time. Almost every night I'd wake up at around 3am and sit in the lounge, thinking about my lost little girl. Carol, the animal communicator I spoke to regularly, kept me sane, telling me to not lose hope and saying that she saw Lulu back in my arms again. Some days I even felt angry at Lulu for what she was putting me through.

At some stage I wished to just find her body, as then I'd know it was all over and I'd have closure. Not knowing where she was, whether she had shelter and food, was driving me into a state of depression.

### **MY LIFE WITH LULU**

Lulu is a CLAWbie (adopted from CLAW – Community Led Animal Welfare) that I bottle-raised from when she was only a few days old. She loved her bottle so much that up to the age of three months, she still got a bottle at night. And now, at eleven years old, she was somewhere out there during the cold, wet and stormy winter months.

### **TIME TO COME HOME!**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, a friend phoned early one morning and said she saw Lulu next to the road on the outskirts of Doringbaai. I went to look and befriended David Fortuin, who lives with his family quite remotely from the rest of the town. He showed me where he'd seen her under the bushes next to the road, and while we were standing there, Lulu came running across the road into the veld! I called her; she stood looking at me for a while and then continued running. David mentioned that he'd seen her closer to his house as well.

I had a food bowl and extra pellets in the car, so we decided that David would put food and water out at night in the hope that Lulu would come and eat. The next morning, I received an early call from David: "Onse kind het kom eet." (Our child came to eat.) David kept on saying that we would catch her; he was praying, and he was very sure of this. We fed Lulu for four nights.

My husband borrowed a large trap from one of the

farmers, and on the Tuesday afternoon we set up the trap next to David's house. At 9:30 on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> of January, David called: "Ons het mevrou se hondjie! Ons het haar!" (We have your dog. We have her!)

In view of the fact that we were all under lockdown, I phoned the SAPS office in Doringbaai to tell them that we'd be on the road, in an open Land Rover, to collect my dog and the trap. They said it was okay.

At David's house, Lulu was very angry and barked at the "strangers" until I began talking to her. She looked at me and then started crying and jumping. We moved her with the trap onto the back of the Land Rover and only opened the trap once we were safe inside our garage at home. I wasn't going to take any chances of her running away again.

### **HOME AT LAST...**

We got home around 11:00, and I then gave her a nice warm bath, as I was convinced she must be full of ticks and fleas – but there wasn't one! I couldn't sleep and sat in the lounge with her and Nina the entire night, just looking at her, taking in that I no longer had to worry about where she was. She was home.

She ran away on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January she returned – exactly seven months; 213 days and 213 nights, which felt like a lifetime. If I knew during the first days that I was going to look for her for this long, I would've totally gone out of my mind. Every new day I was hoping that it was "the day".

All's well that ends well. She's home, safe and warm. She acts as if she was never gone, picking up her soft toy and ball and playing with it, and of course follows me around all the time. I still believe that somewhere she was being looked after by someone, and I'll still ask around. The reward money I gave to David – he believed that we'd get her when I wasn't so sure myself, and he helped because he cared about a lost little dog and her Mom. 

## The difference between puppy and adult food and the transition in-between.

The transition from puppy to adulthood comes with many biological changes, and the food you feed should accommodate these changes. Pet parents need to provide the ideal balance of nutrients to facilitate the rapid growth in puppies and avoid oversupply in adults.

To better understand why the transition from puppy to adult food is of utmost importance, it is important to understand the different nutrient requirements of the life stages and how meeting those requirements can make for optimal development.

### The critical growth period

The growth period that dogs experience when puppies, especially following weaning, which is most pronounced, is the most critical period of a dog's life.

**During this period, several important changes occur and the changing requirements (nutritional requirements, first vaccinations and behavioural development) must be met that will affect:**

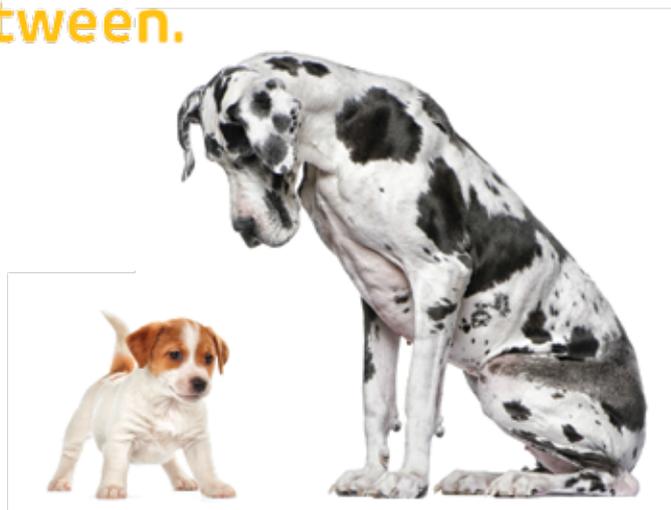
**Growth** (weight gain, which determines adult body weight) and the **rate of growth** (weight gain per unit time)

**Development** (attainment of conformation and the various adult characteristics) **in relation to the puppy's age** (i.e. the rate of development, whether the dog becomes a physiological adult at a faster or slower rate)

At 6-8 weeks, most puppies are ready to be weaned. The nutritional requirement to support normal growth and development of puppies is greater than those of an adult dog. It is therefore important that the diet is nutritionally complete and balanced. No additional supplements such as vitamins, minerals, meat or other additives are necessary.

A puppy's stomach capacity is not large enough to hold sufficient food in one feeding to provide its daily requirement of needed nutrients. Young puppies should be fed at least three times a day until their food requirements, per kilogram of weight, start to stabilise as they mature. The feeding schedule will go down to twice a day when puppies are four to five months old.

Fresh water in a clean bowl should always be available. The amount of food given to a puppy will depend on their size, activity, metabolism, and environment. A puppy should not be allowed to become overweight, as it can cause bone abnormalities. If the puppy gains too much weight, the amount of feed given needs to be reduced; conversely, if the puppy is underweight and there are no health problems, the feed needs to be increased.



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### Energy requirements for puppies

The energy requirement (and hence proportional dietary caloric delivery) for puppies, regardless of their breed, should be much more than for adults. They need energy not only for maintenance but also for building new tissues that are needed for growth. Underfeeding them during this phase can prevent it from reaching its expected mature body weight – underfeeding either because of low quantity or low quality of food. If food is low quality, or low in energy, the puppy will be unable to eat enough food due to its small stomach capacity. This will result in poor muscle and skeletal development. Poor growth and reduced immunity lead to skeletal disorders and early obesity in especially large breed dogs. In adult dogs, the major nutrition-related clinical problems in canine orthopaedics are due to excessive energy intake, which will store as body fat in normal dogs.

In Part 2 of this article, we will cover Protein, Calcium and Phosphorous, and Vitamins, as well as how to make the transition and some commonly asked questions.

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## LIONEL'S CHOICE

Holistic Nutrition

# GETTING YOUR FUR KIDS WINTER READY

By Aidan Wiggill



**T**he onset of colder weather in South Africa is a time to also make sure that your dog will be warm, comfortable, healthy and safe.

## HEATERS AND FIREPLACES

It's perfectly safe to turn on a heater or light a fireplace for your dogs on especially cold days in winter, as long as precautions are taken. You should never leave your dog alone with a heater or fireplace, and consistently monitor his or her exposure to the heat source. A safe distance must always be maintained, and dogs shouldn't be in front of a heater or fireplace for any longer than an average human would. It's highly recommended to

install a fireguard screen around the fireplace or to change your heater to a lower setting. Even at lower temperatures, it's also important to ensure that your pet has adequate water to drink at all times. Winters in SA can be very dry as it is, and a burning fireplace or running heater can further dry out the air around the immediate area and throughout your home.

## WALKING

Although our winters aren't quite as cold as areas of the world that experience snowfall, South Africa can still get incredibly cold. It's important to remember that if you're feeling cold, your dog probably is too. Before taking a

walk, you should plan your trip ahead of time and ensure that you take the most direct route possible to make sure that you can head straight home if the weather's colder than you initially expected. Dogs will generally let you know when they're cold by shivering or whining.

While playing is incredibly important for dogs, in winter you should never leave your dog unattended for long periods of time, particularly if they're a small breed or a breed with thin fur and thus little cold protection. Even though some breeds are more cold-tolerant, no dog should be left outside for prolonged periods of time with no warm

## With the cold weather on its way, it's important to protect your dogs



shelter to retreat to.

### FEEDING

Many pet owners report less energy, more lethargy, and sleepiness in their dogs during the winter. Pets who are spending more time outside in the winter will require more energy, so you should adjust their food accordingly. However, if your dog's mostly spending his time indoors, you may actually need to cut down his portions slightly to avoid fluctuations in weight and energy levels. Dogs are more likely to feel hungry between meals in the winter months, so healthy snacks are a must. Try switching to light versions of favourite treats, or switch to something healthier and with less calories such as pieces of carrot.

Your dog may also drink less water during winter due to less exercise and dry conditions. This is perfectly normal, and there's no cause for alarm if your dog's drinking less than usual. That being said, it's very important to still make sure that your dog has clean, fresh water to drink.

### MENTAL HEALTH

During winter, your dog will start producing more melatonin, and this can result in them appearing more tired or depressed. Other general behavioural changes might also be observed. Your dog may also start barking more frequently if they're cold, and it's important not to yell at your pet every time it barks, as this can

lead to even more behavioural issues down the line. Make sure that your dog has a warm, safe bed and that he or she gets adequate exercise and play under safe conditions throughout the winter in order to eliminate these issues.

### SLEEPING SAFE AND WARM

Experts believe that your dog is safer and better off sleeping inside all year round, for many valid reasons. There are a ton of risks for outside dogs in winter, some related to health and others to safety – yours and your dog's; your dog can alert you to intruders, and they can't be poisoned, for one thing. Sleeping inside is ever more important during the cold winter months, and as a rule of thumb, if it's too cold for you to sleep outside naked, it's too cold for your dog. It's never, ever okay for a puppy to sleep outside! That's because puppies aren't as good at regulating their body temperature as adult dogs are, and they can quickly die from hypothermia.

Puppies and adult dogs are at a greater risk of hypothermia if they're wet. Also, chilly winds can further increase the chances of hypothermia. When that happens, it's hard for dogs to breathe and the heart rate falls drastically as well. If not treated, both these symptoms can prove to be fatal, so if your dog experiences them, it's extremely important to rush him to the vet. Other symptoms include visible weakness, cold body, dilated pupils, and pale gums and eyelids.

Believe it or not, your dog can get the sniffles too. It's common for dogs that sleep outdoors to get colds due to a number of viruses and bacteria. The symptoms of dog cold are quite similar to those experienced by humans. A pooch with a cold would have a runny nose, a cough, watery eyes, and would feel tired and lethargic. If, sadly, there's no way that your dog can sleep indoors, make sure that you have an insulated doghouse, a comfortable mattress and lots of warm dry blankets available. Ensure that the doghouse is placed in a dry, sheltered area, preferably off the ground so it can't get wet or damp. 🐾

### WINTER CHECK LIST

- Wash or buy new bedding, including a new bed and blankets that are strong and easy to keep clean.
- If your dog wears doggy jerseys, check that they still fit comfortably, or buy new ones. Fix any holes and cut off any strings that could get hooked on nails.
- If there's no way your dog can sleep indoors, make sure their doghouse is elevated, in a dry, sheltered place (sheltered from rain and wind) and that you have a comfortable mattress and blankets.
- Brush your dog regularly. Brushing out old fur will allow a fuller coat to grow in. Clumpy, matted fur doesn't insulate as well as a clean coat, and it takes longer to dry.

# DOGS TRUST – PROVIDE, PROTECT, EDUCATE

By Lee Ramalho (Dogs Trust)



**D**ogs Trust runs a weekly feed on a Monday where between 150-250 dogs are each given a 2kg bag of food. We have fresh water and food onsite and make use of this opportunity to do health and medical checks, dipping for ticks and fleas, deworming and vaccinations and also to educate handlers and hand out care leaflets. From Tuesday to Saturday a smaller team scouts into Diepsloot to try and locate animals whose owners are not aware of or did not manage to come to our Monday feed to collect food. In total, we hand out up to 1000kgs of food per week. Thompsons Security Group sponsors the event's crowd control services, free of charge, and we're assisted by Gideon's Animal Outreach for dipping and medical checks.

## TOWNSHIP SCOUTING

Dogs Trust scouts go into the township daily to find animals that are abused, neglected, injured or kept in sub-standard environments. Our aim is to remove and rehome severe cases and to better the living quarters of others by setting up running chains, improving sleeping and living conditions, providing warm beds for winter, shelter for summer, as well as food, water, collars and kennels. We often have

to remove animals due to severe neglect or abuse. Medical treatment is paid for by Dogs Trust and our kind donors, and we manage to successfully rescue and rehome about one dog per week.

## MEDICAL AND HEALTH

Dogs Trust assists with accidental, neglect, human cruelty and organised dog fighting cases which almost always result in the need for medical intervention, rehabilitation and rehoming. We also help animals needing medical assistance for various reasons, most of which can be prevented with proper sanitisation, vaccination and dipping, for example, Parvovirus, Kennel Cough, Distemper, Biliary, and Elrichia and Rabies.

## STERI DRIVE

Dogs Trust, in association with the Society for Animals in Distress and in honour of Jacky Wrighton, took on the mammoth task of doing 100 sterilisations in one week. The drive was called SNIP AND CHIP, and this outreach effort was made possible and executed by the collective efforts of several individuals and organisations. Within seven days



# Dogs Trust assists with accidents, neglect, human cruelty and organised dog fighting cases

of hard work, the target was reached, plus one, as we ended up completing a total of 101 sterilisations. Besides the sterilisations, we also treated and medically assisted over 20 animals with cases of Erlichia, Biliary, Coccidia, Kennel Cough, bladder infection, nose abscess, Parvo puppies, a few dogs hit by cars and even four cats!

We need your help, so please contact us on lee@dogstrust.co.za or call 081 567 2110. You can also visit [www.backabuddy.co.za/dogs-trust-fundraiser](http://www.backabuddy.co.za/dogs-trust-fundraiser)

## JUNO'S STORY

Juno was found tied to a short lead in dire circumstances. This pretty girl had a thorough veterinary check-up and was sterilised. It was love at first sight when she met and was adopted by her

new family, and Juno now sleeps free from constraints with her BFF.

## BAILEY'S STORY

Bailey was hit by a car and the injury was left untreated. He had a very painful and rotting broken foot, but luckily our vets managed to get him back on his feet again. After a full recovery, Bailey was adopted and dotes on his new family. He's happy and loving life!

## DIESEL'S STORY

Diesel, a Labrador cross, was rescued from an evil dog-fighting ring. After medical attention for his wounds and recouping at his foster family, he met his forever mom and is now healed, happy and relaxed. 🐾

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# Why You Should Get Your Dog Microchipped



Identification and traceability are important parts of responsible dog ownership. A microchip provides permanent identification for your pet and gives them the best chance of being reunited with you, should they happen to go missing.

## WHAT IS A MICROCHIP AND HOW DOES MICROCHIPPING WORK?

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is implanted just under the skin of dogs and cats. The chip is implanted by an injection between the shoulder blades. The microchip is pre-programmed with an identification number that's read by a microchip scanner. This identification number is registered on a database.

## DOES SOUTH AFRICA HAVE MICROCHIPPING LAWS?

Since April 2016, all dog owners in the UK had to have their dogs microchipped and recorded on a government-compliant microchip database. Unfortunately, there's no such legislation in South Africa, and it's up to the pet owner to do it. Have

your pet microchipped at an established and reputable company such as Virbac, who'll register your pet on South Africa's National Animal Database. In fact, Virbac will register any type of microchip, including their own Virbac Backhome microchip, so contact them to get your dog registered. Visit their website on [www.backhome.co.za](http://www.backhome.co.za) or email – [backhome@virbac.co.za](mailto:backhome@virbac.co.za). You can also call them on 011 027 8837.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PET IS LOST OR MISSING

Thoroughly check your own property first. Look in cosy places, under beds, in wardrobes, and anywhere else your dog may think it could get some rest or could be stressed and in hiding.

Search your neighbourhood, leaving the description of your missing dog and your contact details with as many people as possible. Remember to speak to any gardeners or to service personnel such as postmen or Pikitup workers who cover a wide area. If you are trying to find a lost dog, walk around

## If your dog gets lost, there's a much higher chance of them returning to you if they're microchipped



the area where the dog went missing with a lead, some treats, and maybe the dog's favourite toy. The scents of all these things may bring your lost dog back to you.

Place missing pet posters everywhere you can, like local shops, vets, lampposts, restaurants, schools, churches, and supermarkets. Contact your local WhatsApp and Facebook community groups and ask them to put out a message for you. Visit other lost-and-found pet social media pages, and leave your message and photos on as many of them as possible.

### FIVE GOOD REASONS TO MICROCHIP YOUR DOG

**Microchipping causes little discomfort** – If you're worried about distressing your dog unnecessarily, you'll be pleased to know that microchipping is a quick (only takes a few seconds), safe and simple procedure that causes very little discomfort. Your dog may flinch as it goes in, but this is about the biggest reaction. Any pain experienced is very short-lived and forgotten about quickly.

**Microchipping can help return your pet** – There are a number of reasons why pets go missing. Whatever the reason, there's a much higher chance of them returning to you if they're microchipped. Should someone find your dog, they can take it to the vet or a shelter to be scanned and you'll be reunited in no time.

**Microchipping protects against theft** – Sadly, many dogs are stolen in South Africa, and if your dog isn't microchipped, proof of ownership can be a challenge. If your dog goes missing and you suspect someone else has them, microchipping can help discover the true owner.

**Microchipping is a lifetime deal** – Once a microchip is inserted, it'll stay there for the duration of your dog's life. Collars and ID tags are great, but they're not permanent. Should your dog break free from their collar or their tag fall off, they're indistinguishable without a microchip.

**Microchipping is not expensive** – Microchipping is affordable, and you'll have peace of mind that you're protecting your dog.

**Microchipping takes the pressure off rescue shelters** – South African shelters are overflowing with stray dogs that could've been returned to their owners if they were microchipped. There have been wonderful reunion stories about dogs that've been found in a shelter many kilometres away from home – simply because they had a microchip. Microchipping can also save your dog's life if they end up in a shelter that euthanises.

### BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

Losing your dog can be a traumatic and even tragic event. Conscientious pet parents protect their dogs by making sure they have a microchip. It's also vitally important to stop your dog from getting lost in the first place by doing the following –

- Make sure that your dogs are in the back garden if possible with a fence between so that they can't be seen from the street (to avoid theft and poisoning) and that they can't run out into the street when cars are pulling in and out.
- When you have builders, maintenance workers or a garden service coming, keep your dogs indoors or make sure someone is there to monitor the dogs. In most cases, dogs getting out of gardens and getting lost is due to gates being left open.
- Make sure that your gates close securely and that walls or fences have no holes and can't be dug under. If your dog's a jumper, make sure your walls or fences are high enough.
- Always keep your dog on a leash when out walking or in a public area.
- Make sure that your dog's secure when travelling in a car.
- Ensure that pet sitters, puppy day care centres, grooming parlours and even training grounds have safety measures in place so that dogs can't escape. 🐾

*Acknowledgements – Virbac BackHome*

# LOOKING AT LEPTOSPIROSIS

By Dr Larry Kraitzick, Bruma Lake Veterinary Clinic



**L**eptospirosis is a worldwide disease caused by a bacteria called *Leptospira*, which lives in soil and stagnant water. An infected animal can transmit the bacteria to other animals and humans; however, most cases of Leptospirosis in humans occur through contact with contaminated water rather than with an infected pet. The number of dogs with Leptospirosis has increased as of late, and it's now estimated that almost 10% (one in ten) of dogs shed this bacterium in their urine.

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms include:

- Lethargy
- Weakness
- Weight loss
- Anorexia
- Diarrhoea and vomiting
- Muscle tenderness
- Shivering
- Frequent urination/dehydration
- Loss of appetite
- Oedema (fluid accumulation in varying areas of body; for

example, abdomen, lower limbs)

- Abnormal bleeding
- Jaundice (yellow discoloration)
- Fever
- Muscle pain
- Collapse

Some dogs don't have any symptoms. Many dogs have mild to moderate symptoms of Leptospirosis, while others are severe and require hospitalisation.

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR DOG...

Dogs are at greater risk of contracting Leptospirosis when they visit places with standing water and other places that allow close contact with other dogs, wildlife, and farm animals. It's therefore desirable to prevent your dog from swimming in or drinking from stagnant water and from digging in soil, although this isn't always possible, unfortunately. The best way to protect your dogs against this disease is to vaccinate them. They should be vaccinated as puppies and then every single year, as the vaccine only protects your dog for twelve months.

## WHAT'S THE TREATMENT?

As mentioned above, most cases of Leptospirosis in humans occur through contact with contaminated water rather than with an infected pet. The disease is treated with antibiotics and supportive care, while monitoring liver, kidney,



By **Dr Larry Kraitzick**  
 BVSc MRCVS  
 Facebook: @drlarrykrait



The best way to protect your dogs against this disease is to vaccinate them

and other organ function. It's important that family members are careful when interacting with an infected dog, including wearing gloves and avoiding coming into contact with their saliva, urine, and mucous membranes. Quarantine infected dogs from other dogs and don't take them to public areas.

**LEPTOSPIROSIS IN HUMANS**

Leptospirosis is more common in tropical areas, where the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that it affects 10 or more people in every 100,000 each year. In temperate climates, it probably affects between 0.1 and 1 per 100,000 people. In an epidemic, it can affect 100 or more in every 100,000 people. Leptospirosis can be treated with antibiotics, and a doctor may also

recommend medication for fever and muscle pain. The disease should run its course in about a week, but hospitalisation might be required if your infection is more severe. In humans, Leptospirosis can cause a wide range of symptoms, including high fever, headache, chills, muscle aches, vomiting, abdominal pain, Jaundice (yellow skin and eyes), and red eyes. 

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*Keeping your hound off the ground...*

# TED'S TALE

By Wendy Scheepers & the TEARS team



## From a life on the streets to a loving home



On Christmas Day, the TEARS Emergency phone received a call from a woman who was looking at a dog running through the streets in the worst condition she'd ever seen. She was in a low-income community and was watching a matted, terrified little dog scurrying around in a desperate search for food.

The lady assured us that she'd stay with the dog until we could get there. As soon as we put down the phone, the TEARS Mobile Clinic was dispatched to go and collect the little dog.

Upon arrival, we found the dog

to be quite fearful of people, and the clinic staff were only able to catch him with a blanket. Once he was caught, we immediately took him to the TEARS Welfare Clinic where our vet was waiting to see him.

### TIMID TED

The little dog was named Ted. He was scared of people – it was as if he'd never had any human contact and had been chased away. His fur was matted and full of dreads so tight they'd ripped his skin open, and in the wounds were maggots. He suffered from chronic sarcoptic mange and a secondary bacterial infection.

The veterinary team immediately began treatment. Ted was sedated so that the painful mats could be removed and he could be bathed. Once he was able, Ted enjoyed a Christmas lunch of chicken – likely the first time he'd ever eaten it.

Ted was treated with Nexgard and continued his medicated baths of Virbac Sebolytic. He ate a diet of Hill's Prescription Diet™ Derm Defense™, which is specifically formulated to help protect a pet's skin as well as heal and recover more efficiently.

### GOING HOME!

Ted quickly found a home and is settling in nicely. We want to extend our thanks to Nexgard; it was their donation of product that allowed us to treat Ted. We must also thank Hill's for helping transform his life.

Your donations help us reach more dogs like Ted. He was lucky that we got to him in time. It's thanks to our supporters that we can help animals in low-income areas. Ted is young and has his whole life ahead of him! 🐾



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# THE GREAT MIGRATION

By Anysha Roberts (PETport)

## How did a local South African Pet Shipper acquire the first Semi Charters out of South Africa?

2020, the year we'll never mention again! Unless it's to showcase the commitment we've shown our clients. PETport has had its share of highs and lows. Making the decision to remain fully operational during the worldwide pandemic was no small feat. During the second half of 2020, we experienced an extreme bottleneck with clients wanting to move internationally, specifically to the United Kingdom. This bottleneck was a result of limitations with airlines, as well as HARC – Heathrow Animal Reception Centre – and the number of fur babies able to travel through facilities per day.

### MOVING AHEAD

PETport has become the first Pet Shipper to acquire Semi Charters out of South Africa to the UK. This was accomplished by PETport's fearless leader, Hazel Imrie.

We at PETport haven't been resting on our laurels. We knew that if no options were available, we needed to create opportunities for keeping families together. In February, in partnership with Qatar Airways and Pets Abroad UK, we were able to safely transport over 84 fur babies to the UK alone through our Semi Charters. In March we had an additional Semi Charter that relocated 20 precious pets, bringing our total in two months to over 104 happy

clients and 104 happy reunions.

One of our first Semi Charter clients, Craig Du Bois, had the following to share about his relocation experience. Craig and family made the decision to go abroad in 2018 but had been contemplating a move since 2015. They finally arrived in the UK in 2020 but had delays due to COVID and lockdowns. They decided on the UK as the time zones were similar to SA, and they could maintain a connection with family and friends they had to leave behind.

"I've been trying to get our dog over to us for the last six months, as we wanted him on a direct flight to limit stress. We'd been in contact with a number of agencies, with the majority of them wanting to charge ridiculous fees and not really wanting to engage with us to discuss the options and address concerns. We ultimately settled on PETport due to the team actually wanting to work with us to ensure our dog would manage the journey and them not trying to charge exorbitant fees," says Craig.

PETport was able to secure Craig's fur kid, Oreo, a seat on the first Semi Charter on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, reuniting Oreo with family on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February. Craig shares his advice for travelling families looking to relocate internationally: "Prepare as much as you can in advance,

but once you go, do the best in the circumstances that you find yourself in; this is probably one of the biggest challenges your family will face, and how your kids adapt will depend on your outlook, so stay positive and don't be too hard on yourself when the plan changes. We'll miss family and friends, as that's the only thing we don't have here, but the benefits of being in the UK far outweigh anything else we had in South Africa. Our dog will also have a lot more freedom here, as it's a very dog-friendly culture, so he'll be able to join the family on most of our outings."

We're FAR from done! With the grounding of Qantas and limitations with existing airlines, we just kicked off our Semi Charters to Australia, departing in May 2021. For more information on how you can relocate your fur babies with your next move, be it locally or internationally, contact our team on WhatsApp – 063 971 6547.

### About PETport

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



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# Bull Terrier (-ology)



*Photography by Riaan van der Merwe*

## Unique, loving and goofy characters who love attention

**I**t's impossible not to have fun when hanging out with this goofy, loveable breed whose personality is as unique as its looks.

Sweet-tempered yet also clownish and stubborn at times, this beautiful dog breed with their distinctive head shape does best with active families by and large, even though they have energy levels that come in spurts and bursts. Bull Terriers need to be part of the family, and they love affection, companionship and interactive play sessions. If ignored, they'll become bored, and mischief will surely follow.

Bull Terriers can get along with other dogs if they're socialised from a young age.

A Bull Terrier isn't bred to be a guard dog, and these fun-loving dogs make loyal and polite family members who'll make you smile with their antics. They do need to be trained with positive reinforcement training.

Bull Terriers will do okay in a cluster or townhouse as long as they're sufficiently exercised and have lots of company.

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

A Bull Terrier can weigh anything from 11 to 26 kilograms. They can be prone to slipped patella (dislocation of the kneecaps), heart defects, kidney failure and skin and flea allergies. They're also prone to suffer from a zinc deficiency, which can be extremely serious, whilst White Bull Terriers are prone to deafness. Bull Terriers love food and can become obese, so never overfeed your Bully or give them too many treats. The breed has a tendency to become overweight and lazy if not properly exercised. Bull Terriers do feel the cold easily, so these are dogs that simply have to sleep inside at night. Their life expectancy is about 10 to 12 years.

The Bull Terrier is easy to groom, and an occasional combing and brushing will do. This breed is an

average shedder, shedding twice a year.

### HISTORY

The Bull Terrier was originally developed in the 19th century as a fighting dog and, later, a fashionable companion for gentlemen, but these days they're a beloved family companion.

Around 1835, a cross between the Old English Terrier and the Bulldog produced the Bull Terrier. Later crosses to the Spanish Pointer; even later, to the White English Terrier and Dalmatian, produced a stylish, tough, white dog. In the mid 1800s, the white version of the breed, known as "white cavaliers", became a favourite pet among gentry. Crosses to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier reintroduced colour around 1900. 

If you'd like to adopt a Bull Terrier, virtually adopt, volunteer or donate, visit [www.adorabullterrier.com](http://www.adorabullterrier.com) or email [claire@adorabullterrier.com](mailto:claire@adorabullterrier.com)

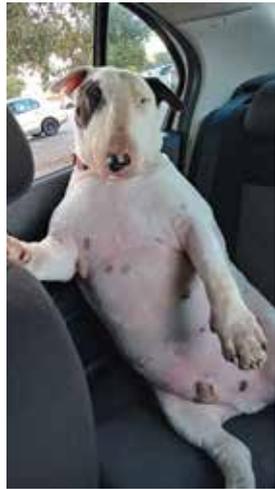
## LOVING VINCE

BY THE MOLOATALA FAMILY

When we had to decide on a Bull Terrier to join our family, out of all the dogs to choose from, we chose Vince. It was because he was unique and had gone through so much trauma in his life that we wanted to give him a safe home and loving family. Our "Vincy" became a big part of our family very quickly because of his cute, playful nature. We all love

and share a special bond with Vince, even though he constantly steals our shoes! Adopting and living with Vince has definitely made such a positive difference in our lives.





## DARLING DIESEL

BY MEIRING JANSE VAN RENSBURG

Diesel – a name synonymous with rough, tough, and not to be messed with. A name that fits his physical stature to a tee but falls far short of our loving,

tender, and playful gentle giant. We adopted Diesel from Adora-Bull 10 months ago, and he's settled in and become a special part of our family.

At 50cm high and just over 48kg of pure muscle, it was quite a bit of fun, frustration, and laughter getting used to this beast in our household. There was no chair, table, or door that would stop him from getting to you for some cuddles. On his way to you, he'd effortlessly knock down anything in his path, and if you weren't ready for him, he'd knock you down too. But it was all worth it to experience the joy, comfort and calm

he'd bring to your soul. Seeing his smile and hearing his soft moans – it was truly serene.

Alas, this magical serenity wouldn't last; inevitably, he'd produce a stinker, which can only be described as biological warfare – making your nose hair curl – and uncontrollable laughter set in.

A day in the life of Diesel is a real dog's life. Sprawled out on the bed, the bed my wife and I had to manoeuvre in like pretzels the night before to accommodate this big baby, he enjoys getting up when the sun has moved far enough through the sky that we can safely have an adult drink. This is followed by a session of advanced yoga moves, stretching of his big body, still yawning with a mouth big enough to swallow a watermelon. We know the yoga session is completed when he proceeds to his water bowl and quenches his thirst, simultaneously creating a small "water bowl wetland" around the bowl. Next up is some rest and relaxation on the grass, enjoying the fresh air and wind in his face. This R&R continues until it's

walkies time.

"Walkies!" Walkies Diesel!" turns the restful, relaxed dog into a driven, motivated, do-or-die machine. The door isn't even open when he storms off for an exploration into the wild, snapping the leash like Indiana Jones's whip! A gentle walk-run pace is only interrupted when a pole or plant needs to be inspected with his sniffer. Nostrils flaring and lips flapping, he makes sure he gets right in there. The lucky ones are left alone quickly, but the unlucky ones... Let's just say all the water not spilled into the "water bowl wetland" gets dumped on the unsuspecting target, followed by a smile big enough to melt the coldest heart. Back home, the rest of the day is spent playing with a tyre, a rope, or anything that looks like a tyre or a rope. I believe this is done to drain all the built-up sleep energy, ensuring enough fatigue to repeat this dog's life tomorrow.

Diesel, we love you and thank you for the joy you've brought, in bucket loads, to our family.

## FINDING OUR TANK

BY THE PAUL FAMILY

Both my husband and I have wonderful memories of growing up with our family Bullies. When we decided it was time to complete our own family, getting a Bullie was the natural choice. Having a rescue was also first choice, as we like to give animals who've not had the privilege of being loved the way they should be, that experience. Inevitably, we've found that we needed the dog more than they needed us.

We searched the web for rescue Bull Terriers and found Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue. We were delighted and had a look at the Bullies on their site. The calendar fundraising was a find and we ordered two for 2021. We oohed and aahed over the Bullies in the calendar, and our minds were made up. Isolating a couple of possibilities, we had a family discussion after reading up on each of them on the website. We also received

the brochure from Adora-Bull Terrier with complete summaries about each dog. Tank was a firm favourite from the beginning, because he looked like he'd had a rough patch before coming to Adora-Bull. It was a hard choice, and in the end, as a family, we ended up eliminating Tank from our initial list. What a disaster that could've been! We sent our possible choices to Adora-Bull, but fate intervened. A family member sent us Tank's plight on social media and our minds were made up. He was ours! We sent our change of mind to Adora-Bull and the process began. We loved Tank from the day we let them know that we wanted him, and he's now a permanent, cherished member of our family.

His favourite place is one of our laps, but he'll settle for one of the couches. As soon as the alarm goes off in the morning, it's open season, and we greet



the new day with a slobbery lick. Then starts our morning 10-minute lie-in with Tank nestled between mom and dad. Head on the pillow a prerequisite! One of his favourite things to do is riding shotgun with Nigel when dropping off and picking up our daughter, Caiside, from school and sport. He's a love specialist and will make sure that he shares his love equally between all three of us. He's an extremely kind, loving Bullie, and we're very blessed with him in our lives. Once again it turned out that we needed him more than he needed us.



## OUR WASABI - A FOSTER FAIL

BY CAROLYNN VAN DER MERWE

We lost our much-loved Bullie, Blaze, in May 2020 to cancer. He was 11 years old, and we got him at five weeks old. As we have three other senior dogs (two rescues and one since she was a pup), we took the time to mourn our loss before deciding if we'd like to adopt again.

In December 2020 we heard about a floppy-eared, soft-hearted Bull Terrier boy looking for a new home at Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue. We arranged a

meet-and-greet with the view to adopting. He loved the treats we took for him, and he was really friendly. We walked away from the meeting with some doubts as to whether we were doing the right thing. We were still unsure if we were ready to move

forward after the loss of our boy, but we were sure that we'd like to open our hearts to another soul in need, so we decided to foster instead of going the adoption route.

Enter Wasabi – a.k.a. “Wobby” – a lively, happy, big boy who came into our lives and took our house by storm. With his keen sense of smell and his ability to find mischief in the most unlikely places, he's kept us thoroughly entertained

and at times somewhat dismayed at his antics. From his counter surfing for any food within reach, to his somewhat strange obsession with socks (which he takes and hides in the kennel outside), to his special cuddle time with dad on the bed... Wasabi is a very special boy. We've grown to love him very much, and we know that his time with us, however long or short it may be, will make a difference to his life and leave us with lasting memories and plenty of laughs.

If you're unsure whether adoption is the right option, consider becoming a foster parent. You'll become a stepping stone on their journey to their forever home, and you can offer them the comforts of “home” while they wait. Fostering saves lives!

## THE STORY OF A BOY...

BY HELEEN TSHIBUMBU

Some stories start with a rainy night, a sun-kissed day, or love at first sight. But this story starts like this...

On the 28th of December last year, we as a family had to say goodbye to our seven-year-old Dobermann, Kenzo. I can say that it was truly the darkest time for our little family. The loss was felt in every corner of the house, in every silence and every waking moment. The little being that took it the hardest was our five-year-old Bully girl, Juno, who stopped eating, stopped playing and stopped living. We were heartbroken, and so was she. She lost her best friend, winter snuggle buddy, and playmate.

I've always followed Adora-Bull Rescue on Facebook, supporting and admiring the work that they do. And in February I asked for a home check to be done, just in case. I remember clearly telling the Adora-Bull representative that we'd most likely adopt in a year or so, because we were still consumed by the loss of Kenzo.

Enter Cheeko. One night, catching up on my Facebook, I saw this post about a little boy looking for a forever home. He

was sitting there, big eyes, looking at the camera. His nose print heart-shaped. And I applied. We didn't think that we'd get him, because he was a puppy, only 16 months old, and we already have Miss Juno, our other Bully.

To my huge surprise, I received a call from Riaan of Adora-Bull to ask if we could arrange a meet-and-greet with the two of them. I was ecstatic! And so, we met the following Saturday at the park... but the rest is not history... We did the meet-and-greet, and it went so well that when Riaan left, we were a two-Bullie family!

Integrating these two Bullies has been literally a full-time job. I've made some really bad mistakes with the two of them, but we're learning, and they're my children. I must be very honest – it's been hard on Juno. As much as she loved playing with Cheeko the first day, she realised quickly he's not her friend Zara that visits and goes home eventually. And it's been hard on Cheeko, trying to find his feet in a noisy family, sleeping in a new bed and having me as helicopter mom, talking to him the whole time,



checking in and sometimes just putting my hand on him when he sleeps on the couch. To this day we don't let them play unsupervised, and they get “time outs” from each other after every two hours of interaction.

We're committed to make this work. I've cried many tears after fights, when we beat ourselves up on “where did we go wrong?” But it's been worth it. I've never in my life been so present, living in the moment. I've never prayed so much, loved so much, dried a dog from swimming so much, and said goodbye to tomatoes that much. (He loves tomatoes, the green ones, ripe ones, and he'll even eat the plants!) And we as a family have never been happier. Anyone can buy a Bully Terrier. However, to give a rescued Bully a home takes commitment. But I promise you... it's worth it!

## A NEW LIFE FOR SWEET PEA

BY ROCHELLE DUMAS

Adora-Bull was called to assist with an eight-year-old female Bull Terrier named Sweet Pea in 2016. She was with an elderly gentleman who suffered from severe depression. The man and Pea were so bonded that when he went into a state of depression, she wouldn't leave his side. Sadly, he lost everything, and his family moved him to a flat, and Pea had to go. Because of the strong bond between the two, euthanising Pea was considered as she'd never cope in kennels. And being an old gal, her adoption chances were very slim.

It was decided that Pea would go to Adora-Bull, and they came through to the kennels on a Saturday morning and

dropped her off. The owner, shy and slender-built, was in tears, and Pea was terrified. We had nowhere to place her, and one of our volunteers decided to take her home and foster her.

It took the foster mom three months to bond with Pea, and it took her husband a year before he could touch her. She sometimes has moments where she just sits and stares out in front of her, and we wonder if she misses her old human.

Pea is turning 13 this year and is still with her foster mom, who at the end of the day adopted her. She's gone grey around the eyes and she battles with some arthritis. Her mom suffers from



anxiety, so when going on road trips without anyone to accompany her, Pea's happy to travel along and keep her mom company. She's been loyal and loved, even when her circumstances changed and turned her life upside down.



We lost two beloved Bull Terriers last year and then, in December, we received a heart-melting message from Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue saying that they had a nine-month-old boy, Mufasa, who had been rehabilitated by them after a double knee operation and now needed a loving family home. They believed he would be a lovely companion for my son, Alex.

At that time, I was still crying every morning when I awoke, and every afternoon when I came home. The house was so quiet and lonely - we didn't know how we would ever recover from our heart-breaking loss. I realised

that giving a Bully a home would be a positive way to start the healing process and a nice way to honour the memory of our boys.

We had a meet-and-greet with gorgeous white-Mufasa-with-brown-ears at his foster home. We spent some time with him and received very helpful hints and tips about his diet and care from his foster mom. We could see that he was very loved and well taken care of and we hoped that he would be as happy with us! We left Alex's soft blanket with Mufasa to remember us by.

I will never forget how excited and anxious we were the day Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue brought Mufasa to our home. Luckily, with good advice and sound guidance, we knew to be calm and relaxed and to give him time to settle down on his own. The most important thing was that he had to feel safe in his new surroundings.

Honestly, even though I tried to remind myself of what our previous nine-month-old Bully had been like, we were still astonished by the exuberant energy and curiosity of our baby boy! Shoes and scatter cushions were hastily removed. Luckily, Mufasa had received wonderful training from his foster mom,

so we could distract him and reward him with treats. He kept us so busy, and he was such a laugh-a-minute, that there was no more time to cry, and so our broken hearts started healing.

Mufasa had to be crated after his operation, and his foster mom suggested that we get one, as he experienced it as a safe place. Our boy happily goes to sleep in his crate every night, and we don't hear a peep from him until the morning. He sleeps like an angel. I continued with his morning routine from his foster mom, so, after we have been in the garden, I go sit on the verandah chair and then he comes to me for a massage, a cuddle, and a kiss. It is truly the best way to start one's day!

In April Mufasa will be one year old, and it will also be our three-month adoption anniversary. We cannot imagine our lives without him. He has crept into our hearts and we look forward to loving him forever. Alex and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the amazing team at Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue for the incredible work and commitment to the Bull Terrier breed - and especially for our adorable bully boy, Mufasa.

## MUFASA'S KINGDOM

BY JEAN AND ALEX WEBER

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What your cat's been waiting for – Pet Rewards Semi-Moist Cat Treats! Available in three exciting flavours, Chicken, Lamb and Salmon, as well as Semi-Moist High Protein Cat Ball Treats. The Pet Rewards range of dog treats, and now the Semi-Moist Cat Treats, are available at select pet, vet and online stores across South Africa. For more information, visit [www.petbrands.co.za](http://www.petbrands.co.za) or visit their Facebook page on @PetBrandsProducts for daily brand and fun posts, as well as monthly hamper competitions.



## COMPLETE DOG TINNED FOOD

Complete Dog is a delicious and nutritious tinned dog food available now at selected pet stores countrywide. Dogs are rather particular in taste, making the development of dog food that's both tasty and fully balanced quite challenging. Complete Dog Meaty Loaf Beef Goulash Flavour and Complete Dog Meaty Loaf Mixed Grill Flavour contain natural ingredients with added essential vitamins and minerals. Available in 385 g and 775 g cans. By downloading the Complete Pet loyalty app from Google Play or iStore, you can now also get your Complete Pet products delivered to your door via selected pet stores countrywide. Visit [www.completepetfood.co.za](http://www.completepetfood.co.za) for more information or follow them on Facebook



## CANNABLE CANINE & FELINE CBD PRODUCTS

Looking for an alternative, natural remedy to manage your pets' pain, inflammation, arthritis and anxiety? If the answer is yes, then you should seriously be considering Cannable's Veterinary CBD Range. Their range of CBD oils are categorised into Small, Medium, Large and X-Large, which allows you to accurately and safely dose your dog or cat. Their dog treats offer an easy and tasty way to give your dog their daily dose of CBD, and their healing cream will assist with certain skin conditions, skin irritations, heat rashes and allergic reactions.

For more information email [info@cannable.co.za](mailto:info@cannable.co.za) or visit [www.cannable.co.za](http://www.cannable.co.za)

**WIN!** One lucky reader will receive a Cannable hamper containing CBD oil (this will be size dependent and will vary depending on the size of the winner's dog), CBD dog treats and a CBD healing cream. To enter, email [marketing@caninezonesa.co.za](mailto:marketing@caninezonesa.co.za) with CANNABLE in the subject line and your name and delivery details.



## NEW JUMBO-SIZED MEGACHEWS FROM MONTEGO PET NUTRITION

Training sessions and often-dreaded visits to the vet can now end on a much happier note for your dogs with Montego Pet Nutrition's new Bags O' Wags Megachews. These mighty treats are an extension of the Bags O' Wags range and are ideal for larger dog breeds. The 30cm jumbo-sized, nutritious treats are extra-long and extra-delicious, making them an excellent reward for good behaviour, the perfect incentive when training, or a between-meal snack. These tasty treats are available in three variants: Bacon Flavoured Spare Ribs, offering a chewie outer layer of goodness; Beef Flavoured Marrow Bones with a soft and meaty centre; and Butternut Flavoured Sticks, which double up as the ultimate teeth-cleaning treat. "Dogs of different ages and sizes have different nutritional requirements, and we aim to cater to all of them. Megachews are not only fun, tasty treats, they are packed with all the nutritional goodness that is essential for the health and growth of larger dogs," said Wilfred Cawood, Marketing Manager at Montego Pet Nutrition. The jumbo-sized treats can be purchased at a RRP of R19.00 each. Visit [www.montego.co.za](http://www.montego.co.za) for more information.



# Looking for Love

A nation's worth of canine cuteness is yours to take in... right now!

## ADORA-BULL TERRIER RESCUE & REHABILITATION (Gauteng)



**ZEUS** is a handsome, six-month-old boy who's best suited as an only dog. He was found as a stray, and he needs a loving home where he can get all the loves and cuddles that he craves.



**TERRY** is a beautiful six-month-old boy who's extremely sweet. He's nervous about strangers and even though we don't know his precise history, in his eyes you can see that he suffered heartache in his past. Terry is best suited as an only dog.



**MASON** is a five-year-old boy, best suited as an only dog. He's boisterous yet very friendly and craves love and attention. He sits and gives paw and has only shown us love and intelligence. If you're looking for a stable, well-adjusted Bull Terrier, Mason is your boy!



**WANDA** is a two-year-old Bullie-X who was found as a stray. This pretty girl loves children, and she's very loveable. While she would do well in any family, it would be best if she was with a sociable, calm male.

## DOGTOWN SA (Gauteng) Photography by Andre Koekemoer Photography



**PHOEBE** is a sweet three-year-old girl who sadly lost her family when they had to move to smaller accommodation due to financial constraints. Phoebe loves kids and is a soft-natured girl who'd love to be part of your family.



**BASIL** is six years old but is still very much a puppy at heart. He comes from a background of neglect, but that's all behind him now. He's ready for his new chapter where he can love his family unconditionally and be loved as such in return.



**JOE** — Handsome Joe is action-packed with personality. This comical five-year-old boy loves people of all shapes and sizes. He was found on a nearby farm with a heavy chain around his neck — thankfully, he managed to get himself free and make his way to Dogtown, where his new life could begin. He'd love to be part of your family and will provide you with hours of entertainment.



**LOIS** — Everyone has a soft spot for seniors, right? Please meet Lois — a handsome golden oldie who'd love nothing more than a loving home where he can retire. Lois currently lives with his fur-sister, Sophie. What a win it would be if they got to be adopted together. Please consider giving Lois (and maybe Sophie?) a spot on your couch where he can enjoy his golden years in the lap of luxury.

## TEARS ANIMAL RESCUE (Cape Town)



**TODD** — Todd's my name, and I love to go on adventures with other dogs. I have great recall off-lead and am very protective. I'm also a bit of a charmer and have loads of energy, so long runs, hikes in the mountains, and beach sessions are the order of the day for me, please.



**CICI** — Hi, my name's Cici. I'm a young Staffie/Pit Bull mix with loads of energy. I was surrendered from Ocean View as my owners had to move. I'm used to living with children and cats, so I'm pretty easy-going, even though I'm very active and busy.



**BAGIRAH** — Hello! My name is Bagirah. I was brought in as a stray from the Ocean View area, living rough and not getting the care I needed. I have a strong yet gentle personality. I enjoy going for walks with my kennel mate. I've got lots of energy and would make a great running partner.



**SETH** — Hi! I'm Seth. I'm a mixed breed boy, rescued from Ocean View as a stray. I enjoyed a couple of months of bliss in my lockdown foster home, but now I'm back at TEARS and looking for a place of my own. I'd be happiest in a home where I'm an only dog. There's someone out there for me, I just know it.

## WHERE TO FIND THEM...

### ADORA-BULL TERRIER RESCUE & REHABILITATION (Gauteng)

#### ZEUS, TERRY, MASON & WANDA

Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue and Rehabilitation is responsible for 50 to 70 Bull Terriers at any given time. These are in our direct and indirect care. In addition to our own kennels in Vereeniging, there are more Bull Terriers in boarding kennels across Gauteng, waiting to be moved to us. This all comes at an additional cost to the rescue. Unfortunately, the situation for many animals and their safety is progressively declining. There are more dogs in need than what our capacity allows us to assist. Our kennels are situated on a plot on the outskirts of Vereeniging. We at Adora-Bull are passionate about our Bull Terriers, and finding them the right forever homes is on the top of our priority list. When we rescue, re-home or take a Bull Terrier into our care, they become part of the rescue family. Our adoption process is strict, but we strive to find a perfect home, not just a home. For more informa-

tion, visit [www.adorabullterrier.com](http://www.adorabullterrier.com) or you can call Danie on +27 72 183 7850 or email her on [danial@adorabullterrier.com](mailto:danial@adorabullterrier.com) or Claire on +27 76 141 428 and email [claire@adorabullterrier.com](mailto:claire@adorabullterrier.com)

### DOGTOWN SA (Gauteng)

#### PHOEBE, BASIL, JOE & LOIS

Nestled in the Hennops mountains is the most remarkable sanctuary for dogs who've lost their families or have been rescued from dire situations. Every day the dedicated team at Dogtown provide individual care to each of these dogs in a peaceful, tranquil setting while they wait for their forever homes. There's often a misconception that all rescue dogs are going to be damaged in some way, but that's simply not true. There are plenty of wonderful dogs at Dogtown SA, who through no fault of their own have found themselves homeless and are just hoping for a second chance at a new life in a loving home. For more information, visit [www.dogtownsa.org](http://www.dogtownsa.org). Please contact [adopt@dogtownsa.org](mailto:adopt@dogtownsa.org) for more information or to adopt one of our dogs.

### TEARS ANIMAL RESCUE (Cape Town)

#### BAGIRAH, SETH, CICI & TODD

A registered non-profit organisation, TEARS Animal Rescue is one of the country's leading animal welfare organisations. Our mission is to provide a sanctuary for companion animals in need, striving to end homelessness, neglect and abuse in the communities we serve through medical assistance, humane education, rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming. We believe we can do this by fostering a partnership approach through individual and corporate giving, and by working together with community and animal welfare groups to create a better world with compassion and understanding towards animals. Together we CAN make a difference. Visit our website on [www.tears.org.za](http://www.tears.org.za) or call 021 785 4482 or email [tears@tears.org.za](mailto:tears@tears.org.za). You can visit us at 4 Lekkerwater Road, Sunnydale in Cape Town.

## MULTI-SURFACE DISINFECTANT CLEANER

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