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Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers 

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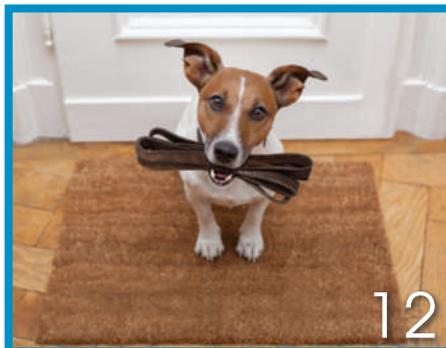
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Dog talk



Wow! Did this year fly by for you too? It seems like only yesterday that I was putting the finishing touches to our December 2020 issue, and here we are again!

I was reading through the articles from our behaviourists, Caitlin and Julie, and it made me think about how important training is, especially puppy socialisation training. To give you an example, the other day, a stray, tiny Maltese managed to dig under our side gate and get into our back garden. When I let my dogs out, they obviously were made aware of the strange dog in the garden and went over to investigate. The little guy went ballistic and was so terrified that he started trying to attack my huge Rottie boy, Drake, who could have easily retaliated, and the ending would have been very unpleasant. However, he calmly stood still while said Maltese was attacking him and biting him on the neck until we could get him away. I totally put this down to puppy socialisation training, and we were so proud of our beautiful boy. The happy ending was that we found the little dog's owner, and all's well that ends well.

I love the festive season, but it can often be a dangerous time for dogs, especially if they're left alone at home, have to deal with lots of guests that they aren't used to, and, of course, on the dreaded New Year's Eve because of thoughtless

and unaware people who still insist on letting off loud bangs for no good reason. We've included a few articles in this issue that will help you get your dog safely through the festive season, but the article on holidays and dogs will apply any time you're intending to take a trip.

We've had a great year at Canine Zone, and we're looking forward to the future, what with our print circulation increasing and our free online edition doing exceptionally well. I'm incredibly grateful to our sponsors and advertisers who've continued to see the value in print and digital combined, some of whom have been with us for a long time. These sponsors include Lionel's Choice, Montego Pet Nutrition, MacMac Trading, PETport, Pro-Pet, Complete Pets, Eco-Vet, and Jock. Please support these wonderful companies and brands who do so much for dogs. Canine Zone has now been around for seven years, and I still love what I do. Who wouldn't love writing about dogs every day while your own dogs snooze at your feet? I'm very grateful that my life has led me in this direction, even though there are times when the cruelty and neglect that one comes across can really bring you down and make you wonder how humans can be so cruel to other sentient beings.

Let's spare a thought for all the abandoned and stray dogs sitting in shelters this year. It will make your heart swell (guaranteed) if you visit a shelter to volunteer, donate some money, sponsor a dog for 2022, or even do a collection in the office or with family and friends, and take some food, toys and treats down to your closest shelter. Until our February issue, here's wishing you, your family and fur kids a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous festive season and 2022!

Sharon

Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers

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UPFRONT

DOGS ARE ACTUALLY A WOMAN'S BEST FRIEND



Dogs are man's best friend, right? Wrong! New research from Washington State University in the USA dispels this long-held theory. In a cross-cultural anthropologic study, WSU researchers analysed 8,000 descriptions of dogs interacting with humans in 144 societies globally. They examined writings across various centuries, starting as far back as Imperial Rome in 79 CE.

"The research found that dogs' relationships with women may have had a greater impact on the dog-human bond than relationships with men," says Seugnette van Wyngaard,

Head of 1st for Women Insurance.

According to Jaime Chambers, who has a PhD in Anthropology at WSU, dogs are usually treated with more affection when there's a female owner. Chambers further notes that humans were more likely to regard

dogs as a type of person if the dogs had a special relationship with women. "They were more likely to be included in family life, treated as subjects of affection, and generally, people had greater regard for them."

The relationship between dogs and their female owners is mutually beneficial. In another study, it was found that simply petting a dog lowers the stress hormone cortisol, and owning a pet can decrease the likelihood of allergies in children by up to 33%.

"Before taking advantage of this win-win relationship, it's important

to be realistic about whether you can afford to look after your pet's medical needs, ensuring that they have access to quality care when they need it most," says van Wyngaard, who recently launched 1st for Women pet insurance.

She points out that even new puppies could incur substantial medical costs in the first year alone through initial vaccinations, deworming, neutering, tick and flea treatment, microchipping and vet consultations, which typically cost around R600 to R700 per consultation.

"Not to mention the soaring costs related to other health problems and emergencies, where something like cruciate ligament surgery could potentially cost as much as R30,000. This makes pet insurance something that pet moms and dads simply can't be without," adds van Wyngaard. For more information on 1st for Women pet insurance, visit their website on www.firstforwomen.co.za

DARG - DOING IT FOR THE ANIMALS

The Domestic Animal Rescue Group, "DARG", is located in Hout Bay and was established in 1999 as a pro-life, non-profit organisation and adoption facility. DARG supports the rescue, care, rehabilitation, and rehoming of domestic animals that have been

neglected, abandoned, and abused. The organisation provides basic medical care, education and sterilisation initiatives to the greater Hout Bay community, including the lower income communities of Imizamo Yethu and Hangberg.

If it weren't for the determination of the small but passionate team of 18, none of this would be possible. Because DARG doesn't receive government assistance, it relies on the goodwill of public donations and fundraising efforts to

keep its doors open. As a registered PBO (Public Benefit Organisation), DARG issues tax certificates for monetary donations received.

Besides monetary donations, DARG is always in need of dog and cat food, fleece blankets, dog beds, kennels, dog toys and treats, and general maintenance items that can be used for kennel upgrades, etc. Donations of household items, bric-a-brac and clothing are greatly appreciated, as these are sold in their garage shop. DARG also has an online bookshop and The Book Shack, which is located on their premises.

The DARG team has worked hard to upgrade the facility for the health and well-being of the animals in their care. Certain of their animals are fed fresh healthy veggies from their vegetable patch, which they hope to expand. They take pride in keeping their facility spotless, and their animals receive the best care possible with regular walks, music in the kennels and enrichment activities for both dogs and cats.



SOUTH AFRICAN PET GEAR ENTREPRENEURS WIN TOP GLOBAL AWARD



A South African entrepreneurial company has just been named “Brand of the Year” at the World Branding Awards 2021-2022 Animalis Edition. Over 115,000 consumers worldwide nominate their favourite brand, and Rogz, an internationally acclaimed brand that designs, manufactures, and distributes pet gear to 90 countries, took top place in the toys category.

The 26-year-old South African company employs 250 people and has recently brought the majority of its manufacturing back to SA. Co-founders Paul Fuller and Irené

Raubenheimer say, “It’s an absolute pleasure to win this award. It means Rogz has been able to provide joy and relief to pets (and their owners) in the current difficult environment. For us, it’s always been about remaining authentic and doing what we love.”

Danny Pek, Chief Executive, World Branding

Forum, says a good brand needs to offer a meaningful experience to its customers whilst remaining relevant and distinctive. “The world is full of brands, but a truly exceptional business has to ensure that people know what it stands for. The Animalis Edition of the Awards is very competitive.

“To be a winner at the Awards, a brand has shown that they have built themselves up to such a degree that they are placed amongst the best in the world.” Of the 1,100 brands nominated, just 28 are named “Brand of the Year” on a Global Tier.

The Rogz Story

A quarter of a century ago, two young entrepreneurs touched back down in South Africa after having spent a couple of years scrubbing decks in the Caribbean. Unenthused by the looming prospect of a slow and steady slog up the corporate ladder, Paul Fuller and Irené Raubenheimer decided to go into business for themselves. Fast forward 26 years, and the idea that started in the spare bedroom of a Blouberg apartment has grown into one of the world’s favourite pet brands.

“We’ve always been very proudly South African, and the support we’ve received here has been fantastic. That’s why we were delighted when we were able to bring a lot of our manufacturing processes back home. We’re uniquely positioned to be able to design, brand, produce and supply from here. There are not a lot of countries that can do all of those things,” said Fuller.

FIVE PERSONAL FINANCE TIPS FOR PET OWNERS

Pets have always been a source of comfort and companionship, and the Covid-19 lockdown has encouraged more people to adopt a dog. Pets can, however, be more expensive than you expect. Just like members of the human family, they fall ill, get into fights, injure themselves, require exercise and grooming, and can be picky eaters.

“It’s natural to fall in love with an adorable puppy, but before you decide to take a four-legged friend home, it’s important to be aware of the responsibilities and costs involved,” says JustMoney Marketing Manager, Shafeeka Anthony. “There are usually high initial expenses when you bring your baby home, followed by a long-term financial commitment.”

Anthony offers five tips for current and prospective pet owners:

- **Do your homework:** Buying a registered purebred dog, such as an English or French bulldog, pug, or King Charles Spaniel, can cost up to R70,000. You could easily spend another R10,000 in the initial months on vaccinations, deworming, sterilising, microchipping, a bed or kennel, pet food, and tick and flea treatment. Some pets also require socialisation classes, and professional grooming and clipping. In the case of a rescue dog, you’ll be assessed to ensure you can provide a good home and will probably pay an adoption fee of around R1,000. This normally includes sterilisation, vaccination, and deworming, so you’ll have fewer initial costs.
- **Build an emergency savings fund:** Your pet may be perfectly healthy,

but a bone might lodge in its throat, or it could be attacked by another dog while out for a walk. An unexpected vet bill will be a stark reminder that emergencies don’t wait until you have cash available. Big bills can come in at any time. Financial experts suggest that you save three to six months’ salary to handle unexpected expenses. You want to avoid going into debt to cover your vet bills, possibly putting you under financial strain for months or even years. Find out how to build an emergency fund.

- **Consider pet insurance:** It’s a good idea to check out pet insurance, which is underwritten by insurance companies. Your pet’s age, species, and breed, as well as where you live, will be taken into consideration. Compare several quotes so that you can choose a package that matches your needs. Depending on your policy, you may have to pay an excess amount. If your pet is hospitalised, inform your insurance provider, and check what they’ll cover, so that you’re prepared for any costs you may personally incur.
- **Get boarding back-up:** While it’s easy to bond with your pet while working from home, you may spend more time apart as lockdown restrictions ease. More people are returning to offices and embarking on

business and leisure travel. As a pet owner, you may need to factor in the cost of doggy day-care, or a house-sitter or boarding kennel when you take a break.

“Becoming a pet parent could be one of the best decisions you’ll ever make, but it’s important to be aware of the expenses involved,” says Anthony. “Educating yourself about the costs of pet ownership, and putting a plan in place, will prevent the heartbreak of being unable to afford veterinary treatment, or even having to give away a much-loved pet because you can’t afford to care for it properly.”

JustMoney understands that managing finances can be stressful and has made the process easy, fast, safe, and convenient. The JustMoney website offers helpful articles and tools relating to financial wellness, including credit and debt best practice, insurance, banking, tax, and many other topics. JustMoney partners with trusted financial brands and creates informative, trustworthy advice for busy people. Investments and insurance cover are also available at competitive rates.



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Your Photos



My boy **MARLEY** is nine years old. As little as he is, he has the biggest character ever!

JOANNE MARX

Our **TAYLOR** with Lindelwa Lidisay, gazing at her baby friend.

TRACEY DELPORT



LILLY loves being in nature... my little princess.

DESIRÉ WELMAN



TEDDY BOO having fun at the dog park. He's 12 now but still has the energy of a puppy.

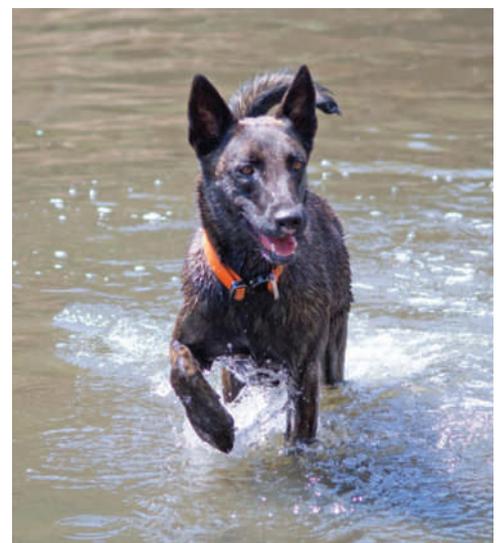
BERNICE HAWKES



My three Stooges, **CHILLI, DANNY & GEORGE**, sharing a quiet moment. – **SAMANTHA MC CARTNEY**

ZIZOU is a missing pet search dog and the biggest cuddle bug.

DIANE LOGIE



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



My **BAILEY** boy says: "Cos I'm cool like that!"
SUGNE MILLER

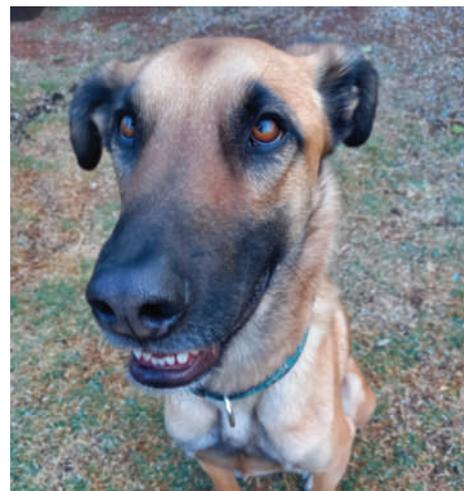
MISCHA turned 10 on the 10th of November and she is just my everything. She has such an awesome personality and doesn't even know she's a dog. She understands everything you say and really does talk back! She loves her daily walks, visits to the doggie park and beach trips. – **NATASHA VAN RHEEDE**



LEXI'S new winter coat!
JEANNE MEEKS



PHOEBE jumped in the bath because she thought it was a good idea at the time, and then she wasn't sure how to get out!
LISA NEL



TITAN is our four-year-old Malinois cross whom we adopted from Woodrock. He's a lover of all things food!
KAREN LEE OPIE



SIMBA is our gorgeous rescue.
RENSIE VORSTER

ZACK & TRISTAN are my fur kids who were adopted from Dogtown SA. They're the loves of my life.
SHIVANI NAICKER



Help!



GOT A QUESTION?

E-mail us at
editorial@caninezones.co.za
 and we will forward your mail to our
 behaviourists, Julie Bezuidenhout and
 Caitlin Balf-Helmrich to answer



MY DOG DOESN'T PLAY

We adopted a German Shepherd cross named Jilly about three years ago from the SPCA. She's about five years old now. We do have two other dogs as well who love to play fetch with a ball or tug-of-war. They chase each other and love playing with toys. The odd thing is that Jilly has never played. She'll watch the other dogs play from a distance, but if we throw a ball at her, it will literally bounce off her head, and she has no reaction whatsoever. She doesn't have any favourite toys either. The only time we've seen her play is if she tries to catch flying ants on the odd occasion, or lizards. She's such a sweet, happy and gentle girl and we love her to bits, but I feel sad that she's never played. Is playing something that all dogs do, or do some just not play as it's part of their personality?

CHLOE BESTER

CAITLIN SAYS – Playing is a unique behaviour in dogs in that, unlike many

other species, it continues to be important well into adulthood. It's wonderful to watch a dog really enjoying themselves in an all-out play session. It's not, however, uncommon for dogs to be disinterested in play. If any medical reason such as pain has been ruled out, it may just be her personality. Playing with toys is something that comes naturally to some dogs, but others have to learn through experience. If Jilly never had much experience playing as a pup, it may just be something that she has no real desire for. You can try to help her learn to play by finding a toy that she's interested in engaging with (plush toys or plastic bottles might be good if balls aren't doing it for her). You need to try and get her excited and interested in the toy by moving, squeaking and shaking it to elicit a response and celebrating with her

if she chooses to pick it up. Some dogs don't like to hold toys in their mouths, but they might prefer chasing a soccer ball or something similar. You can also try playing "chase the treat" to get her engaging in a playful act, or even hide-and-seek, looking for family members in the home. There are many ways to play beyond fetching a ball, so keep trying until you find something that sparks her interest.



MY DOG CHASES HER TAIL!



We have a two-year-old Doberman Pinscher who gets overexcited after we play ball with her every day and will then

constantly chase her tail. We'll distract her with treats, but she'll then go back to frantically chasing her tail until she completely wears herself out. Our vet says it's a common

thing for Dobermans to tail-chase, but it's very stressful to see her doing this. It's got to the point now that we don't

want to play with her anymore as it gets her overexcited. How should we deal with this?

CHRISTINE JACKSON

JULIE SAYS – You may have to try a variety of things to see what works for your dog. I suggest you stop playing ball with her, for now, as this is the catalyst for tail chasing. Try and play with something else of a lesser value, and only for a minute or two. If tail chasing happens, try another toy or item. The idea is to keep her threshold below the excitement which is created from the ball playing. You could provide a short walk, or a lasting yummy chew directly after play, as an attempt to provide a longer-lasting distraction.

MAKING A DECISION ABOUT DOGGY DAY CARE

My husband and I have been married for a year and live in a cluster complex. We both love dogs and would love to adopt a puppy. We both have the option to work from home, which is fantastic, but we do need to go into our respective offices for weekly meetings. We're only allowed one small dog in our complex, but we worry that he or she will be lonely when we have to leave the house and lonely to be an only dog. I've always been told that dogs are pack animals and need at least one friend, so we were wondering if puppy day care once or twice a week would be a way to give her canine company? What are your thoughts on this, as we do worry about our puppy picking up diseases or getting hurt by other dogs (we'll be typical first-time parents!). We're planning on visiting shelters in December when we're on leave and will make the decision about puppy day care in January.

WHITNEY SUNDHLANE

CAITLIN SAYS – Adopting a dog is a very exciting prospect! Puppies are a full-time responsibility, and it takes a lot of input to set them up for success as adults.

While many dogs enjoy the company of other dogs, there are equally as many who are happy to live alone. Doggy Day Cares are becoming increasingly popular, but it's important to note that it's a largely unregulated industry, so you need to ensure that the day care you choose checks out as only using kind, force-free methods to interact with the dogs. Equally important is that dogs are supervised and not left to run wild in large groups, as this doesn't help a puppy to learn good manners and etiquette. It's also this type of play that can lead to injuries. Don't be afraid to ask questions and spend time there outside of your initial visit to see how they operate day-to-day. Any decent day care won't accept a very young puppy as they're extremely vulnerable to diseases and injury. Adopting

an adult dog who can visit day care once or twice a week could be a good idea instead of a puppy, as they generally require less micro-managing. Either way, taking your dog to day care has risks and benefits and you need to ensure that the day care you choose is doing enough to mitigate the risks. It can be a wonderful way for a dog to spend a couple of days a week!



CAN OUR OLD DOG CHANGE HIS WAYS?



My brother and his wife are looking at emigrating next year and due to financial constraints won't be able to take their eleven-year-old Chow with them. We absolutely adore Charlie and really want him to join our family, but he's very aggressive with other dogs. He never went to socialisation classes and is an only dog. Although we don't have any other dogs at this stage, we'd love to adopt more in the future. Can dogs with severe dog aggression be cured, and how should we go about doing

this, possibly before he comes to live with us? We could take him to a behaviourist, but he isn't young anymore and we don't want to stress him out. If necessary, we'll just leave him to live his best life with us and only get other dogs when it's his time to cross the Rainbow Bridge.

JANET STRYDOM

JULIE SAYS – Older dogs have learned to be very set in their ways, and the aggression you describe is unlikely to change, as he's had eleven years to learn that this is the order of the day. Taking him on walks and providing him with a loving home would be an ultimate retirement for Charlie. I suggest that Charlie remains an only dog.

What's up with walking?

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



Beyond the four walls of your garden is a world waiting to be explored – a real sensory wonderland, from sights to smells to sounds. What dog wouldn't want to experience the joy of a regular walk? For many dogs and owners, their daily walk is the highlight of their day. For many others, it's a chore that they have come to dread...

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF WALKING YOUR DOG?

Physical exercise – This may be the most common reason people are told to walk their dogs. The average adult dog benefits from some physical exercise every day. This keeps dogs (and owners!) fit and mobile, and it's a great way to stay healthy.

Mental Stimulation – Humans

have busy daily lives to stimulate and entertain us. Our jobs give us something to do for a large part of the week, and our friends and family give us something to do for the weekend, if we're not choosing to relax. Dogs don't have this and they spend large parts of every day resting, snoozing and often being bored. Bored dogs can become busy dogs as they search for ways to stay entertained, usually at the expense of gardens and furniture. Regular walks done right can be an invaluable opportunity for your dog to occupy its brain and keep the boredom at bay.

SOME CONSIDERATIONS WHEN WALKING YOUR DOG

While there are obvious benefits to regular walks, there are some

reasons to err on the side of caution when deciding if, when and where to walk your dog.

OFF-LEASH VS ON-LEASH

A leash, clipped to a well-fitted harness (not a collar), provides peace of mind for dog guardians that their companion won't be able to venture too far. For the dog, however, a leash can feel very restrictive as it takes away their choice to move towards or away from something, often leading to an explosive reaction or a dog dragging their human down the road! Take away the leash, however, and your dog has the potential of disappearing over the horizon! In either case, a dog needs to be trained, using kind and gentle methods, to be comfortable and safe on-leash or

Is your dog truly enjoying and benefiting from a walk?

reliable at recalling when off-leash. Only walk your dog off-leash if he or she is well trained and it's in a safe area that allows dogs to be off-leash.

WHERE TO WALK YOUR DOG

Generally, dogs are walked around the neighbourhood (suburban walks) or in dog parks. Suburban walks can be stressful for your dog – picture walking down a row of inmates all shouting at you to get away from their home. While some dogs are able to relax and enjoy themselves in spite of this, nervous or reactive dogs can find this extremely stressful. Many local parks have become off-leash dog walking spots (albeit against the bylaws in some places), and if you're walking your dog in a park, you need to assume that you'll encounter off-leash dogs. This can be a cause of stress for owners and dogs alike. Off-leash dog parks are filled with poorly socialised, sometimes overly friendly dogs who pay little mind to the cues of other dogs. Inevitably, scraps and arguments may break out, and leaving dogs to “sort it out” can lead to injuries or worse.

PUPPY POINTERS

Young dogs are naturally curious about the world around them, and building positive associations with things such as other dogs, cars, people and places is invaluable. Teaching a puppy from an early age to be calm and focused on their guardians will set

them up for success as they grow.

Those first walks with a puppy are rich in teaching opportunities! Puppies are also susceptible to illnesses, and it's not recommended that they're walked in public before completing their vaccination course.

STIMULATED VS EXHAUSTED

Your dog should come home from a walk feeling relaxed and stimulated, not exhausted. Many well-meaning guardians believe that their dogs will behave better when they're walked (or run) to exhaustion, but this state leaves very little room for learning or making sensible choices. The more a dog exercises, the more exercise they'll need, and dog guardians often have to meet an ever-increasing demand for exercise.

MAKE IT A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

While the dream is long leisurely strolls with your dogs, there is a great deal of opportunity to teach them that walks are a positive experience and help them to learn to enjoy walks safely. This requires guardians to be present and focused on their dogs. Keep a bag of delicious treats handy when on your walks, and reward your dog for good choices – ignoring distractions, looking at you and being confident but calm when visiting new places.

ALTERNATIVES

If you feel as though you have to walk your dog because their

behaviour is unbearable without a walk, or that they're bored and need something to do, but the idea of walking your dog fills you with worry – you aren't alone! There's a societal expectation that dogs need walks every day, but walks that aren't safe and beneficial to your dog can be detrimental. There are many ways to give your dog the mental stimulation and physical exercise that they need, without the added stress of walking. Some ideas include:

Playing in the garden – With toys or humans, a ten-minute active play session can boost moods all round and can be a great way to burn some energy!

Feeding enrichment – Find creative ways to feed your dog so that its brain is kept active. This could be scatter feeding, slow-feeder toys, or frozen treats that challenge them to think.

Training – Take some time each day to teach your dog some simple new tricks. This can keep their bodies and minds active.

Adventures – For something a bit more physical, without the stress of a suburban walk or the crowded local dog park, get out of town and onto a dog-friendly walking trail.

So, before your next walk, ask yourself if this is something that your dog is truly enjoying and benefiting from, or if there might be better ways to provide your dog mental and physical stimulation. Always enlist the help of a force-free trainer or behaviourist to support you when working with your dog to change behaviours. 🐾

HOUNDS on HOLIDAY

By Julia Lamberti-Morreira



The holiday season can be a stressful and hazardous time for dogs. So, how can you keep your pet safe and serene this holiday period, especially if you're going away?

PICKING A PERFECT PET SITTER

You may be looking forward to going away for your year-end break but worry about the care and safety of your dog whilst you're gone. If this is your dilemma, hiring an in-house pet sitter may be a good solution. The benefits of this canine care option include:

- Your dog can keep their normal routine, with the sights, sounds and smells familiar to them.
- They won't suffer stress from being transported to a strange place.
- If your pet is on medication or requires treatment, your sitter will be able to administer this to them.
- Your dog will not be exposed to illnesses at a kennel.
- A pet sitter that stays in your home can be a good crime deterrent.
- Hiring a sitter is often more cost-effective and convenient than boarding your dog.

When selecting an appropriate pet sitter, check if they have any dog-handling credentials and contactable references. It's also critical to interview candidates

personally, which will allow you to evaluate how a potential sitter responds to your dog. Online reviews will also give you an idea of previous clients' experiences, and your local vet will be able to refer you to good sitters in the area. Once you've selected your sitter, ensure that you furnish them with the following information:

- Your dog's history, habits and any behavioural issues.
- Your dog's list of vaccines and any recent medical conditions and medications.
- Your dog's daily routine, including their eating, sleeping, toilet, walking and playing habits.
- Emergency contact

Whether you're taking your dog with you on holiday or hiring a pet sitter, we have important tips for you

information, including: your veterinarian's information, nearest emergency hospital, neighbour contact details, and your vacation location contact details.

- Insistence that a collar, with identification tags, be worn by the pet at all times.
- An explanation of how to safely secure their walking harness.
- A list of any rooms off-limits to the pet.
- Your communication expectations – i.e. you may want a daily video or regular pictures and updates. You'll also want a guarantee that your pet sitter won't invite other people into your home or go out partying, leaving your dog alone for hours on end, especially on New Year's Eve.

Alternatively, you can choose to have a sitter visit daily, and they can feed, exercise and check in on your pet without actually staying in your home. However, this option isn't recommended for deeply sensitive, sick, very old, physically disabled or indoor-living animals.

BOARDING YOUR FUR BABY

A house sitter is best, but if you really aren't comfortable with having a sitter in your home, a boarding facility may provide your dog with safe and secure accommodation over the holiday

period. In fact, a quality kennel can offer your dog 24-hour care, exercise, grooming, stimulation and play during the time that you're away. If your dog is on medication, it will be administered by kennel staff and your dog will have access to veterinary care. A decent boarding facility will also monitor your dog's diet and eating habits, to ensure that they're eating well. Just keep in mind that very young or fussy dogs can get overwhelmed and stressed by noise and activity in a kennel, and they may not be comfortable around multiple dogs. It's also important to secure kennel accommodation fairly far in advance, as these facilities are typically heavily booked over holiday periods. When searching for a reputable kennel facility, first approach your vet for recommendations. Other great ways to locate excellent kennel options include asking trusted friends and family for suggestions and searching for online reviews. It's then advisable to visit your top choices and determine whether they're able to accommodate your animal during the period you're on holiday. Enquire about staff training, the number of staff on site, and if there's constant monitoring of the dogs in their care. Additionally, you should make sure of the following:

- Can the kennel accommodate your specific breed?
- Are they able to provide any special services that your dog

may need?

- Does each dog have its own space, or are multiple dogs, from different homes, put into a single accommodation area?
- Does the accommodation have sufficient light and ventilation, and is it clean and hygienic?
- How regularly are the accommodation and bedding cleaned?
- Is the recreation/play/exercise area clean, secure, hazard-free, and large enough for dogs to run and be supervised at all times?
- How often are the dogs let out to the exercise/play areas, and for how long?
- How does the kennel handle medical emergencies and administration of medication?
- Are the staff trained to provide pet first-aid?
- What is the kennel's preferred vet, and does that vet provide 24/7 emergency medical services?
- How will additional medical costs be managed if your dog requires treatment during his or her stay?

HOLIDAYING WITH YOUR HOUND

There are many pet-friendly accommodation options available, and you may prefer to take your pooch along with you on holiday. But how do you ensure that the trip is a safe and enjoyable one for both of

you? Firstly, establish whether your holiday accommodation is dog-friendly. A quick internet search will reveal some good accommodation options. Call ahead

before booking to confirm the venue's pet policy and ask any questions that relate to your dog's specific needs, size and breed. Also, look into dog-friendly attractions, stores, cafes and restaurants and establish which beaches will welcome pets during the time that you plan to visit. However, it's important to be aware that very busy tourist attractions may prove stressful for a dog not used to crowds. Thus, planning a pet-friendly trip itinerary ahead of time is essential.

Before setting off for your vacation, pop into your vet to make sure that your dog's vaccinations and tick, flea and worm treatments are up to date. Getting your dog's microchip scanned to check that all the information is correct is also advisable. Furthermore, it's important to determine where the closest vet to your holiday accommodation will be, in case of an emergency.

If driving to your holiday destination, make a list of everything you might need during the trip. This includes toys, blankets, fresh water, treats, poo bags, and any possible medication your pet might require. Securing your dog in the vehicle, in a comfortable crate or with a dog harness, is also critical. Then establish ahead of time where you'll safely stop during the journey for regular toilet breaks and leg stretches. Ensure too that your dog is firmly leashed during these stops. If your fur kid suffers from motion sickness, have a remedy at hand and refrain from feeding them near to the time of travel.

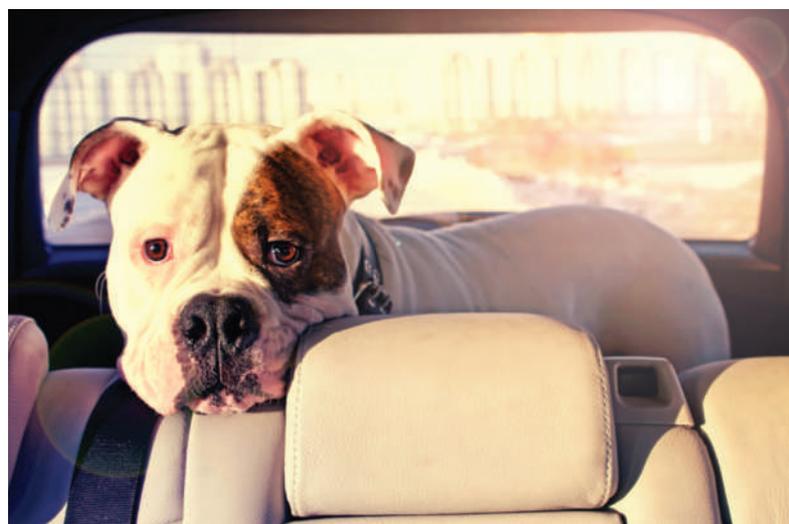
Some other safety tips to consider when vacationing with your pet include:

- Never leaving your dog alone in a vehicle (it can take a mere 15 minutes for a dog to die from heatstroke on a hot day).

- Ensuring that you take your dog for regular walks during cooler times of the day to prevent paw burn and heatstroke.
- Providing your dog with fresh, cool water at all times.
- Being careful of having your dog off-lead in unfamiliar areas.
- Maintaining the same feeding and walking routine on holiday as you have at home.
- Taking enough of your dog's regular food, in case you can't source that brand at your holiday location.
- Never leaving your dog alone in your holiday accommodation.
- Being aware of your dog's attitude towards other dogs and crowds of people and taking this into account when out in public spaces.

Nobody wants a canine catastrophe over a period synonymous with celebration and cheer. Luckily, with a little foresight and some practical planning, you can ensure that this holiday season is not only a happy and peaceful time for you and your four-legged friend... but a safe one too. 🐕

Sources: www.petsitusa.com www.petsbest.com www.grindelwald-kennels.com.au www.lanewaymagazine.com.au www.dogsforgood.org www.rockythetraveller.com www.dogfriendlycotswolds.co.uk www.myfamilyvets.co.uk www.ultimatepetnutrition.com www.akc.org





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BRINGING BUSTER HOME

By Thomas Schmidt



On the 5th of October 2021, at around 10 am, my wife, Sylvia, and I were visiting the police station in Jeffreys Bay, Eastern Cape, where we saw a little mix-breed dog lying in front of the entrance. At this stage, we didn't know that this little creature was badly injured. People were walking by busily, in and out of the police station, and no one paid any attention to the little dog, including the police officers.

After I finished my business in the police station, we decided to investigate and walked over to the little guy. I picked him up to find that he was full of ticks and fleas and had patches of missing fur all over his body. Worse than that, it seemed as if his right leg was broken, possibly injured by a car. He desperately tried to walk but was in a lot of pain, so he could only limp. Sadly, it also seemed like an old injury to us, so the poor fellow must have lived with pain for a long time.

I went back into the police station to find out if anyone knew who the dog belonged to, and the answer we received was that the dog had been lying there for two days already and no one had paid him any attention. We were shocked that no one walking by had even called the SPCA or had tried to help.

We didn't hesitate – we picked him up and put him into our car. He was totally exhausted and very weak, so without a second to lose, we set off for our veterinarian, Dr Barbara Hoek, in Jeffreys Bay. Dr Barbara immediately examined the little dog and gave him emergency treatment to stabilise him, and it was then that we decided to name him "Buster".

NURSING BUSTER

The X-rays confirmed Buster's broken leg. The bones in his leg had grown skew as he'd never been treated after getting injured, which is why his leg will never be fully functional again. Dr Dawid Evezard suggested operating on his leg to relieve him from the pain he was in and so that he could use his leg to walk again.

They estimated Buster to be just over a year old, and he came through the surgery well. He was on pain medication as well as antibiotics and vitamins. He was also treated for mange, ticks and fleas and got all his vaccinations. My wife had to give him small amounts of food, four times per day, and lots of liquid, as his tummy had shrunk due to lack of food. He weighed under 4 kilograms and was also dehydrated.

COMING HOME

When we were able to bring our boy home, we nursed him and saw him heal a little bit more every day. Our team of four dogs – two Ridgebacks, one

One little dog's wonderful rescue story

BEFORE



Dachshund and another cross-breed named Moses (who's been in Canine Zone already) – were initially a bit distant with him, but they've all accepted him and have settled now. At the time of writing, Buster is making fantastic progress and he's beautiful. He has a lovely, calm nature and is as happy as can be.

A special thanks to Dr Barbara Hoek and her Cape Cross Vet team, as well as to Dr Dawid Evezard and his team from Kragga - Kamma Veterinary hospital in Port Elizabeth for the amazing help and support. Buster has his forever home and will never want for anything again. 🐾



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Fur Kids & Festivities

By Aidan Wiggill



Giving your dog a wrapped gift on Christmas morning is an incredibly fun idea. Not only will it keep your pet busy while the rest of the family enjoys the festivities, but it will also make the day more memorable for you and your dogs. There are, however, some things to look out for before you spoil your fur kids.

Wrapping paper is a fun toy in and of itself, as the smell and crinkling sounds are very entertaining to a dog. But it can also cause a few health problems if it's consumed entirely. Eating too much paper can cause an obstruction in the stomach or intestines. If the obstruction is large enough, especially in smaller dogs, an emergency procedure may be necessary. So, if your dog receives a new toy in paper and ribbon this holiday, make sure that the rule is – play but don't eat!

The same applies for ribbons and bows. In fact, other wrapping materials are even more harmful for your dogs, as they're most often made from thin

plastic that can easily get tangled and form large obstructions. We also recommend not using any tape to wrap gifts for your pets. Rather wrap the toy or treat in plain paper using folds and pinches to hold the gift in place.

DECORATION SAFETY

Dogs find festive decorations and trees very interesting, but they could be dangerous. Make sure that your Christmas tree and other decorations are out of reach from your dog or puppy as glass and plastic ornaments and lights can cut inquisitive mouths, and even worse, could be swallowed and cause a lot of damage. Tinsel is exceptionally dangerous for dogs if it's swallowed. Keep gifts out of reach as well, as you don't want your dog eating Aunt Mildred's box of Lindt chocolate and end up at the vet. And believe me... your dog will smell edibles that are gift-wrapped.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

If you're like me, sitting down to Christmas dinner

Making the festive season safe for your dogs

is one of the most memorable and enjoyable events of the season. To your dog, seeing trays of various foods being transported in and out of the kitchen is a major temptation. And as such, you may be tempted to sneak your doggo a few treats under the table when nobody's looking. However, there are many types of traditional holiday food that your dogs need to steer clear of.

One example is Christmas pies and puddings, which most often contain raisins. Eating raisins can result in kidney failure or even death. Dried raisins in particular have been known to cause severe symptoms when eaten by a dog. There are also some more obvious things to keep away from your dog, like chicken or turkey with bones, and some that you wouldn't usually think about, such as roast

veggies that contain any form of garlic or onions. Both of these contain thiosulfate, which is toxic for dogs, resulting in damage to red blood cells and haemolytic anaemia.

Our advice is to put in a few Google searches before you prepare your feasts for any ingredients that you may be using, before offering any to your precious pooch.

Another option is to make a dog-specific meal for your dogs, and you can find many recipes online should you want to make the day/night special. If you want to distract your dog while you eat, we recommend a large bone or a new chew toy that you only bring out when you're ready to eat. 🐾

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At-home grooming tips for a happy, healthy dog



wash their dogs; this is a big red flag for your dog's skin. The pH balance found in human shampoos is acidic, whereas a dog's skin is more neutral. Instead, use a specially formulated dog shampoo that will nourish and clean your dog's skin and coat, without stripping the natural oils from your pet's luscious mane. It's worth trying a conditioning shampoo with natural ingredients known for its soothing and hydrating properties, such as Montego XenPet's range of Conditioning Shampoos.

Regular grooming is an important hygiene practice to keep your dog's coat and skin in a healthy condition. While taking your dog to a professional groomer is advised every 4-6 weeks, this can be a costly exercise.

Use these three tips for at-home grooming that will bond you to your dog and ensure they're smelling fresh and looking great!

REGULARLY INSPECT THEIR COATS

Whether your dog is predominantly inside or spends most of their time playing in the garden, a dog's coat can be a breeding ground for harmful parasites that need to be removed. Inspect your dog's coat and skin during grooming sessions, keeping an eye out for ticks or fleas, and ensure you are focusing on those areas while grooming. If the problem persists, contact your vet for a suitable treatment plan.

GOOD QUALITY PET SHAMPOO IS A MUST!

Many dog owners simply use human shampoo to

INVEST IN A FEW GOOD TOOLS

Purchasing a few good tools to make bathtime more effective and enjoyable is a great idea for at-home grooming. Grooming gloves are an effective way to reduce shedding and double up as a great massage tool. Another essential tool is a brush suitable for your specific dog breed that will detangle their coat. Giving your dog a thorough brush before a bath will prevent matting of the hair and aid in a more pleasant grooming experience.

Implementing these tips will set you up for successful grooming at home and save you some cash in the long run. Enjoy the experience and take advantage of the cuddles you'll receive after bathtime.

Editor's Note – The Montego XenPet grooming range can be found at your nearest XenPet retailer. Available in three conditioning shampoo variants, as well as a snout and paw balm, anti-itch spray, and a no-rinse foam wash. Products are priced from a RRP of R55.00. For more information, visit www.montego.co.za 

RUBEN UNCHAINED!

By Dogtown SA

How Gordon Banks, head behaviourist at Dogtown, helped...

Ruben is a five-year-old Boerboel who came to Dogtown via an animal rescue shelter in the Cape. He'd been surrendered to the rescue shelter by the owner who felt Ruben was becoming too reactive.

The owner was the only one in the family who could handle Ruben, so this sadly meant that the dog needed to be chained up during the owner's absence. It only compounded the situation – a catch-22 situation!

Ruben went through an assessment on arrival at Dogtown, and it was evident that he lacked many doggy social skills. This assessment indicated that the perceived reactivity was frustration due to the absence of any form of physical and mental stimulation. To address this unwanted behaviour, Gordon Banks, head behaviourist at Dogtown, developed a two-phased modification programme.

PHASE ONE

Ruben was taken on long daily walks and given time for free play, during which he was allowed to run and explore off the lead in one of the large, fenced play areas at Dogtown. This also helped to establish a bond between Ruben, Gordon and the Dogtown staff.

He's become far more relaxed on his daily walks, and they now include mass social walks with other Dogtown dogs. These walks have markedly reduced his previous negative response towards dogs, which has helped him become less stressed around dogs and people.

PHASE TWO

The goal in phase two was to reintroduce the crucial mental stimulation that was grossly lacking in his daily routine. Initially, he was encouraged to look for treats that he saw his caregiver hiding in his garden run. As he started responding with favourable behaviour, we hid the treats out of sight. Finally, we hid treats on his walking trail.

PHASE THREE

Ruben was introduced to tracking and is now comfortable tracking fifty metres, with the distance increasing weekly. Although he still has some way to go, Ruben's rehabilitation is progressing well and looking very promising.

As Gordon and the staff at Dogtown continue to work with Ruben, it's their hope that he'll soon be able to be put up for adoption, find a loving family, and put his difficult past behind him.

If your dog has problems with aggression, it's vitally important to seek the help of a qualified behaviourist as soon as possible to give it the bright future it deserves. 🐾



FESTIVE FAVOURITE RECIPE



We all enjoy eating special meals and treats over the festive season, and so do our dogs. You can stock up on treats at your favourite pet store, and you can make extra-special homemade treats that are perfect as gifts for your dogs and other dogs that you know. Keep in mind that your dog will be very interested during the entire process of making liver cake!

LIVER CAKE FOR DOGS

You'll need a blender or food processor to make this liver cake recipe.

Ingredients

- 400g liver
- 1 egg

- 150g spelt flour (or wholemeal)
- Optional – you can also add a tablespoon of grated carrot. If the mixture is too dry with the carrot, moisten with a little bit of water or milk.

Method

1. Place the liver and egg in the blender and blast it until smooth. If you don't like liver, you probably won't enjoy this part!
2. Mix it into the flour.
3. Transfer it to a baking tray. You can lightly grease it, or use some baking paper, to

- stop it from sticking.
4. Cook it for about 30 minutes at 180 Celsius and then leave it to cool before slicing it up into bite-sized treats.
5. Once the liver cake has cooled down, chop it up into smaller treat sizes and portion them out for when you need to use them.

Liver cakes will last for up to three days in the fridge – store them in an airtight container or in sandwich bags. You can also freeze them for up to three months. For gifts, place the liver cake in a pretty, airtight container and wrap a bow around it. Just don't let the dog who receives this tasty gift get hold of the ribbon and bow! 🐾





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Lionel's Choice - a dog food for breeds of all sizes.

Dogs come in as many different shapes and sizes, just like humans, with unique needs and limitations.

The size class influences the nutritional requirements that span across all breeds, be they small, medium, large, or giant breeds. Appropriate nutrient levels to match a dogs' size is incredibly important. These considerations are especially important in diets for puppies.

There are many nutrients and specifications that need to be considered, so let's look at the main factors that need to be considered.

Energy Content

Energy requirements for small vs larger breeds can differ significantly. The difference being small breeds have a higher metabolism relative to that of larger breeds.

Lower energy requirements predispose larger breeds to the detrimental effect of excess energy consumption. Rapid growth and lower bone densities than smaller breeds mean that carrying excess weight can be more stressful on their bodies increasing the likelihood of skeletal abnormalities. Smaller breeds can burn through calories much quicker, making them more susceptible to hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar).

This difference in metabolic rate of small vs large breed dogs spans from puppy to adulthood.

Mineral Offering

The intake of minerals, most recognisably Calcium and Phosphorus, in dog food is extremely relevant as both the lack and excess intake can result in retarded growth and severe bone and joint abnormalities.

Calcium (and energy) excess, together with rapid growth, predispose larger breed dogs more to conditions such as hip dysplasia and other skeletal defects. This makes larger breeds more tolerant to a lower concentration of Calcium than smaller breeds to reduce the risk of over supplying minerals. Elevated Calcium and Phosphorous can also reduce the bioavailability of other trace minerals.

These dangers of oversupplying minerals are a much higher risk in puppies than in adults, as younger dogs seem to lack an effective mechanism in self-regulating the amount of Calcium absorbed from their diet.



Protein Level

Scientists have shown that varying the protein levels fed to larger breeds had no obvious implications for Calcium metabolism and skeletal development.

This makes protein levels, if abiding to ranges set by regulatory bodies to supply essential needs, far less significant in breed size-specific nutrition than energy and mineral intake.

This shows that when feeding for different sized breeds, energy and mineral content may ultimately play more of a role than crude protein.

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If they cannot join you, please make sure they are well cared for and safe over the holidays.



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As we prepare for the holidays, it can be chaotic and stressful for us. Pets pick up on our emotions and mirror them.

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Provide the kennels or pet sitter with your pet's regular diet and feeding guidelines.

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LIONEL'S CHOICE

Holistic Nutrition

Know your Vet



You wouldn't take advice and medication from a doctor who isn't registered, would you? Similarly, you need to know that the person you're trusting with your beloved dog's health is legitimate, qualified and will give them the best possible care.

This is where the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) comes in. As the regulatory authority for the veterinary and para-veterinary professions – covering veterinarians, veterinary nurses, animal health technicians, veterinary physiotherapists, laboratory animal technologists and veterinary

technologists – the Council is there to give dog owners peace of mind by upholding professional standards and ethics.

“The most important thing for members of the public to know is that if you visit a vet or a para-vet who's registered with the SAVC, you have recourse if you have a complaint. We can investigate allegations of unprofessional conduct,” says Dinamarie Stoltz, the SAVC's Director of Legal Affairs.

However, she says, if you take your pet to a layperson who's not registered with the SAVC, and

How to ensure that your dogs receive the best medical care

are unhappy with the service you receive, the Council cannot take action against them. "Be careful of people pretending to be who they are not. If a vet isn't registered, there's no oversight from the Council, and you have no recourse if things go wrong."

Mpho Mojanaga, the SAVC's Director of Registrations, says it's imperative for veterinarians and para-veterinarians to be registered with the SAVC. This starts with impressing on university students the importance of registration with the Council, she says.

"We try to help them understand the scope of their particular profession. For example, just because they're registered with the Council doesn't necessarily mean they'll be able to perform full veterinary services. Each profession has its own scope of registration within which they are allowed to practise." Members of the public can find out what procedures the different veterinary and para-veterinary professionals are mandated to carry out by visiting the SAVC website.

MAKING IT SAFE

Veterinary facilities are also inspected once in a six-year cycle to ensure that they comply with minimum standards, says SAVC Facility Inspections Coordinator Minette Claassen. These are referred to as routine inspections. The SAVC's Legal Department may also arrange ad hoc inspec-

tions, often with no notice being given to the vet, if a complaint has been laid regarding the standards at the practice. State veterinary facilities must also be registered with the SAVC and must comply with minimum standards.

Stoltz cautions against "spayathons" where owners are enticed to get their pets sterilised. "Before you take your pet to such an event, check whether there's a vet on site who's accredited to perform sterilisations and community engagement exercises. These events should be run and overseen by a registered vet and not by a layperson," she says.

Be aware that clinical work such as surgical procedures must be undertaken by a registered veterinarian, she adds. And be wary of who vaccinates your pet, as a layperson will in all probability not be able to maintain the proper vaccine cold chain or even be aware of such a requirement.

"It's important for the public to understand there's a difference between an animal welfare organisation, which attends to basic animal welfare needs, and a registered clinical veterinary practice, which must be registered with the Council," says Stoltz.

RED FLAGS AND IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE WHEN CHOOSING A VET

- Handwritten receipts (if any) instead of printed statements

- Dirty or untidy facilities
- Staff whose demeanour makes you feel uncomfortable or who don't address your concerns with due diligence and/or respect
- Is the veterinary or para-veterinary professional's SAVC registration certificate displayed? Has their registration lapsed or is it up to date?
- Is the facility registered with the SAVC?
- Only a veterinarian is allowed to dispense scheduled animal (veterinary) medicines to animals, although a pharmacist at a community pharmacy may fill a prescription from a veterinarian
- It's unlawful for veterinary professionals to dispense, sell or prescribe any medicine for human use, including ivermectin (medication used to treat parasite infections)
- If a veterinarian knowingly gives ivermectin to a person for their consumption, that vet could face a complaint of unprofessional conduct and, possibly, a civil liability lawsuit should complications arise

An up-to-date list of registered professionals for the different professions, as well as a list of registered veterinary facilities, is available on www.savc.org.za. If you have any questions or complaints about the service you've received from vets or para-vets, please contact the SAVC at complaints@savc.org.za.





WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR DOG FROM FIREWORKS

We can't stop the madness, but we can take care of our own dogs

Every year it's the same thing. People who love animals and nature have to start preparing for the onslaught of dreaded fireworks across the country throughout December and especially on New Year's Eve. It seems like those who get their kicks out of loud bang noises and have no regard for other people, animals or the environment will never learn or understand.

As we all live in hope that fireworks are completely and permanently banned in South Africa (some small towns have already made the move to banning them), our best option is to keep our own dogs safe and to help other dogs as much as we can – for example, by driving around the neighbourhood on New Year's Eve (while someone is with your own dogs at home, of course) and picking up terrified dogs and taking them to a prearranged safe house or vet clinic.

A 2013 study by the University of Bristol's School of Veterinary Sciences found fireworks were the most common trigger for fearful behaviour in dogs. Responses included: trembling, shaking, hiding, seeking comfort, destruction, urination, and salivation.

HOW WE CAN HELP OUR OWN DOGS

From distraction to anti-anxiety vests and more, we've rounded up all the tips you need to help your pet feel better when the ridiculous loud bangs start.

1. Stay indoors and stay at home – It's vitally important to keep your dogs indoors and stay at home with them on New Year's Eve, the days leading up to it, and even the night afterwards. This helps reduce their exposure to the sounds, plus it prevents them from running away. Don't go out, leave your dog outside, and then have horrible regrets and guilt when your dog disappears or is found deceased.

2. Make arrangements if you are away – If you are going away, make sure someone is home with your dogs on New Year's Eve, preferably a full-time house-sitter or a trusted family member or friend. Make sure your house-sitter isn't going out on the

town on New Year's Eve or will be throwing a party at your home – with fireworks!

3. Talk to your vet about possible medications – If your dog gets very upset by fireworks, there are a variety of options that could help. Dogs have been known to die of heart attacks, so make sure your dog is safe and protected as best you can.

Remember that some natural medications need time to build up and work.

4. Distract and give your dog lots of love – Use treats and activities that your dog enjoys and give lots of calming, soothing reassurance. Play calming classical music. You can try leaving on a fan, TV, or even washing machine or dishwasher to help mask the sounds of the fireworks.

5. Invest in a pressure wrap or vest or learn how to make one using large bandages or cloths – there are many demonstration videos on YouTube.

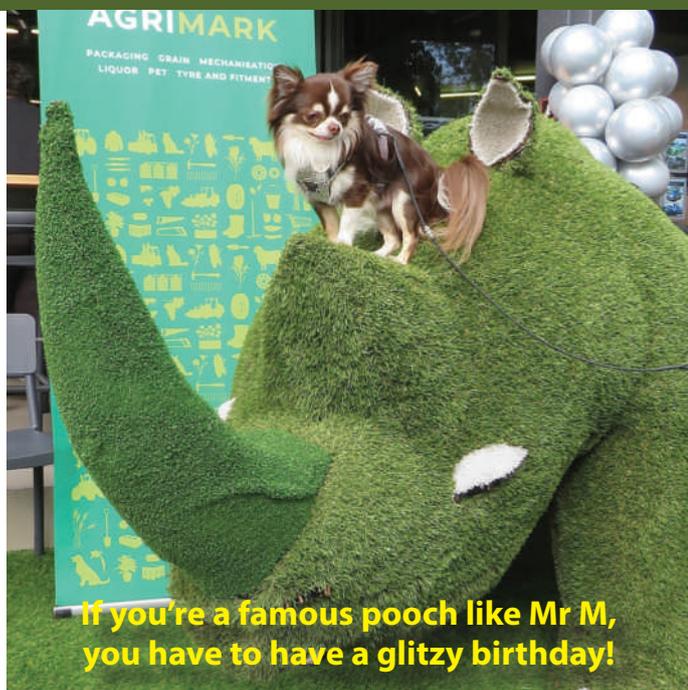
6. Desensitise your dog to the sounds of fireworks – Work with a behaviourist and try playing sounds of fireworks (softly) so your dog is used to hearing them. You can then combine this with giving your dog treats in a process called counterconditioning.

7. Educate – get involved in educating your community and trying to get everyone's buy-in to make your area a fireworks free zone. 🐕



Mr Miyagee turns 4!

By Lindi Pieterse



If you're a famous pooch like Mr M, you have to have a glitzy birthday!

Mr Miyagee the Chihuahua is one of the most well-known and much-loved South African celebrity dogs. With a resumé the size of his personality, he certainly touches many hearts during his daily adventures.

On his journey travelling the world, Mr Miyagee inspires with a story of courage, bravery, respect and unconditional love. He's a certified emotional support pet to a 10-year-old boy and is a trained therapy dog, as well as being a social media/brand influencer and ambassador to more than 100 brands. Mr Miyagee is named as one of the 12 Most Photographed Dogs in the World, with his latest TV commercial being screened in 10 different countries and gaining over 14 million views in the USA alone! He's currently starring in the latest Renault Kiger and Nuggets of Wisdom Chicken Licken Lotto commercials on TV. Mr Miyagee visits schools, hospitals, special needs institutions, old age homes and children's homes to inspire and share a bit of love and light on his way.

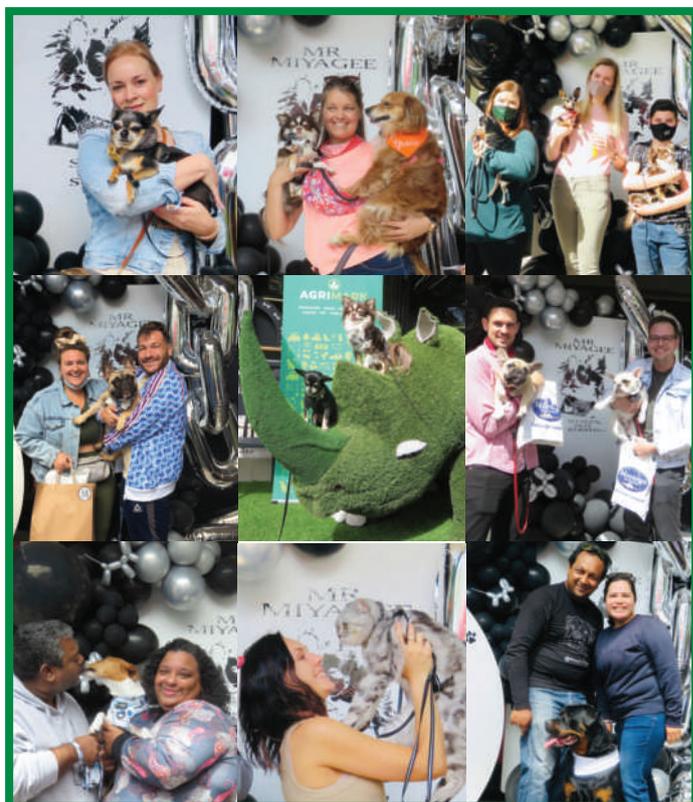
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mr Miyagee celebrated his fourth Birthday on October 21st and 23rd. Yes, if you're a famous pooch

like Mr M, one day is simply not enough to celebrate a birthday in his glitzy ways! He loves giving back to charity, and this year was no different. On October 21st, he celebrated his special prebirthday with a very exclusive VIP party at well-known French restaurant Chocolat Bistro in Durbanville, along with a VIP guest who's also his best friend, Princess Priya.

On Saturday the 23rd of October, he celebrated his birthday in Greenpoint at the beautiful Agrimark Pet store. This Red (or Easigrass Green) Carpet event was attended by 60 VVIP pet Influencers, members of the public and celebs to join in on the celebrations in true 007 Agent style.

On the day, Mr Miyagee raised funds for The Dog Box Project, an organisation that moves mountains for dogs living in informal settlements. Along with the generous assistance of Dotsure Pet Insurance, R5,000 was raised in aid of The Dog Box Project. For more information, email mrmiyageesa@gmail.com or follow him on Facebook: [@Mr Miyagee SA](https://www.facebook.com/MrMiyageeSA) 🐕



ARE YOUR PETS LIVING LARGER THAN LIFE?



The words tubby, flabby, or fatty shouldn't be words used by your friends during a braai to describe your beloved pet. Weight gain shouldn't be preventing them from being able to join you for a snuggle in bed as they can't make it up the stairs.

Unlike wild animals, who spend a great deal of energy catching or looking for food, our pampered fluffballs have the luxury of only having to follow their nose to the delightful kitchen which contains an assortment of fine treats. This means our dogs' energy intake (food consumed) outweighs their energy output (seeking food), placing them in a "positive" energy balance. You may be thinking that "positive" is a good thing, right? Not in this case,

as any extra energy is converted into adipose (fat) tissue. Therefore, we as caring owners need to think of ways in which we can increase our pets' energy output to help restore the energy balance.

WHAT ARE THEY FEEDING YOU?

Firstly, look at what you're feeding your little – or maybe not so little – rascal. A well-balanced diet devoid of any treats is the first step in correcting this balance. You may think that it's just "one little doggy biscuit"; however, that biscuit is the equivalent to one hamburger a day for us. Think what would happen to your waistline should you eat a hamburger a day on top of your usual daily intake!



Let's put an end to obesity in dogs

If you absolutely need to give your fur kid a treat because he's looking at you with "those eyes", then please stick to apples or carrots. You may feel bad initially, but remember that obesity can reduce the lifespan of your dog by two years and your cat by five years. Think of all the walks, cuddles, kisses, and love you'll miss out on all because you couldn't say NO.

GET MOVING

Next, exercise, exercise, exercise. It's a fun way to increase your pet's daily energy expenditure, and we all know that Covid hasn't been kind to our own physique. There's growing evidence that overweight owners are more likely to own overweight animals. Take up the challenge and change both you and your fur baby's way of life. Start slow, with short daily walks during the cooler hours of the day, and gradually increase the speed and distance.

Have a pet with arthritis who just can't manage to go for walks anymore? Fat itself is an inflammatory process, so any arthritis that your golden oldie may have will be consistently made worse by the chronic inflammation from the fat, as well as having to lug around the extra weight. Weight loss can improve the quality of life of these precious pets, and frequently you'll find that you can even decrease the amount of pain medication that they require to keep them comfortable. So, if this is your pet, consult with your veterinarian to help you get their pain under control, and then the next stop should be your veterinary physiotherapist. Hydrotherapy (i.e. swimming) is great in these cases as the buoyancy afforded by the water allows the pet to exercise with minimal weight on the joints. A veterinary physiotherapist will also be able to use other modalities such as a laser, transcutaneous electrostimulation, or massage to relieve your pet's pain and thereby increase their mobility.

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS

Thirdly, remember each animal is an individual. Just because your sister can eat three hamburgers

a day and look great in a bikini, doesn't mean you can pull off the same stunt. Some breeds are predisposed to weight gain – such as a Labrador, who just looks at cookies and puts on the weight. Age also plays a role, and pets (like us) have a decreased metabolic rate and usually a decreased activity level as they get older. Sterilisation, coupled with the resultant decreased activity levels (no longer off to wander the roads looking for a mate), decreased metabolic rate, and an increased appetite can predispose your dog to weight gain. Feeding a diet lower in calories can help prevent the battle of the scale in the first place.

GO FOR A CHECK-UP

If you've tried all the above-mentioned and your pet is still a roly-poly, then it's time for a check-up with your local Dr Dolittle. Conditions such as Cushing's and hypothyroidism can lower your pet's metabolic rate, leading to diseases that can be detected in your pet's blood. There are also fantastic weight-loss clinics at many veterinary practices due to increasing pet obesity within South Africa. These clinics are free of charge, have great resources, and could help you find out what's causing your dog's weight gain.

MAKE THE CHANGE

Please, we know you love them and want only the best for them, so don't fall into the obesity trap. Should you be unsure if your pet is overweight or not, make an appointment with your veterinarian or veterinary physiotherapist. Studies have revealed that 22% of dog owners thought their pet's weight to be normal, when in fact they were either overweight or obese. Obesity is a silent killer, predisposing your pet to high blood pressure, cancers, heart, and respiratory disorders, as well as diabetes.

So don't "paws" – act now and give your pet the maximum love with a balanced lifestyle each and every day. 🐾

Time For Midnight



DARG in Hout Bay received a panicked call from a lady whose dog had been mauled by a vicious dog. The dog was rushed to Penzance Vet who immediately attended to her. Her front leg had been savagely attacked and the vets feared it needed to be amputated. Thanks to Dr Margueritte and her team, they managed to save Midnight's limb, but it took several surgeries as the muscles had suffered severe damage.

Midnight stayed at the vet practice for many weeks while she regained her strength and all chances of infection had been avoided. When Midnight was brought into the shelter, she was recognised immediately. It turns out she'd been brought into DARG a few years before with

her six puppies. She'd subsequently been returned after being sterilised and her pups had all found loving homes. It was easy to remember Midnight as she was a doting mum, and the pups all shared her beautiful temperament.

BACK AT THE SHELTER

So back she was at the shelter, but this time it wasn't smooth sailing – she howled and howled non-stop. DARG's adoption manager called the vet in desperation, asking if Midnight could come back to them while she looked for a foster for her. Fortunately, Dr Sofia offered to take her for a few weeks. What she didn't know was that one of her dogs was in fact one of Midnight's puppies. Looking at the two of them curled up in a bed together, it wasn't hard to

spot the resemblance, both physically and emotionally.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

The next stage of Midnight's journey had begun – she easily accepted living with the resident cat and two other dogs but found it difficult being left alone. Going on walks was also a challenge as she was fearful of other dogs. Slowly, her confidence grew, and she started to enjoy her romps on the beach and exploratory walks in the forest. She also learned that her mum would come home each day and a routine was established, enabling her to blossom.

Sadly, due to the nature of Dr Sofia's work and her need to help other animals, she couldn't keep her forever, so DARG started to actively network her and received a call that sounded promising. A lady was looking for a very calm, gentle, and loving dog who was ok around cats and wouldn't upset her older male dog.

Since being attacked, Midnight wasn't one to engage with other dogs, but when she met Kazu, she was rather keen to sniff him and even rolled onto her back next to him. The adoption manager and Dr Sofia thought this was a very good sign indeed. Another beach walk confirmed that the two dogs would be suitable together.

A NEW FAMILY!

Midnight's new mum, Colleen, says: "She's slotted into her

After a long journey, Midnight finally finds her family

forever home beautifully and has such a gentle, friendly manner about her that both cats had within a few days accepted her. The grumpy old ginger, infamous for seeing off unwelcome canines, has even head-bumped her on occasion. Midnight was quite anxious when she first arrived, and Kazu was in mourning after the loss of his mate of 15 years. But only three weeks of loving attention and long daily walks together

have transformed her into a more relaxed individual and him into a more animated one – and both into demonstrably affectionate companions.

"Midnight is a very gentle and respectful dog who wants to be liked by everyone. We like clever dogs, and she's very intelligent and intuitive. Midnight is a very special dog, and we feel very lucky to have found her. We hope she feels the same way." 



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LUMPS AND BUMPS

By Dr Larry Kraitzick, Bruma Lake Veterinary Clinic



You're stroking your dog and you find a lump. This is a scary situation for any pet parent, but not all lumps and bumps are dangerous.

The more common lumps and bumps in dogs include:

LIPOMAS (fatty tumours) occur commonly in middle-aged or older dogs, especially around the ribs, but they can be found anywhere on the body. While they're more likely to develop in overweight, large-breed dogs, smaller breeds may also be affected.

A **SEBACEOUS CYST** is a blocked oil gland. If it bursts, a white, pasty, smelly substance is extruded. Most of them don't cause problems, so they're usually left alone unless they're infected or irritate your dog.

WARTS are more commonly found around the mouths of

young dogs. They're caused by a virus and usually go away without treatment.

An **ABSCESS** is a build-up of pus under the skin. It can be caused by an infected bite from another animal, a wound, or from a bite from an insect or spider.

MALIGNANT SKIN TUMOURS – These types of lumps are cancerous and appear as noticeable lumps or sores on the skin. The two most common types of malignant skin tumours are mast cell tumours and squamous cell carcinomas. Early detection is key to increasing your pet's chance of survival and decreasing complications.

In order to check what the cause of the mass is, we often first take a tiny sample of the lump with a needle and place it on a slide. This process is called a fine

needle aspirate. We then stain the material and examine it under a microscope. We call this a cytological examination, and it's the process of looking at and analysing the cells.

We may not be able to make a diagnosis from this slide, but if the sample is good, then in many cases we can differentiate between a benign (not dangerous) and a malignant (dangerous) lump. If it's benign, we try to determine whether there's infection, inflammation or another process occurring.

We do the above procedure to decide if we need to remove the lump and how much tissue around it we need to remove. We also have to decide what other tests and treatment may be necessary.

LUMP REMOVAL

If we decide to remove the lump because we feel it's malignant or aren't sure exactly what it is, we'll often send it to a laboratory for histological examination. This is where a specialist will look at stained sections of the sample to make an exact diagnosis. The specialist can also very often tell us what the likelihood is that the entire lump has been removed. If the lump turns out to be cancer, we often X-ray the chest, do ultrasound of the abdomen, and test the lymph nodes which drain the area in which we found the tumour. We do this to try to find out if the tumour has spread.



By **Dr Larry Kraitzick**
 BVSc MRCVS
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Early detection is important, so have your vet check any lumps and bumps on your dog

The information mentioned above allows us to determine if further treatment is needed. This may include another surgical procedure to remove remaining tumour, and/or chemotherapy, and/or radiotherapy.

Early detection gives your pet the best chance, so please have those lumps checked by your vet. 🐕



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**HOUND
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LADYBUG AND SPIRIT FLY HOME

By Anysha Letashé Roberts (Marketing Director – PETPORT)



PETport was the proud exporting agent of a beautiful family of six relocating from South Africa to the UK. This journey started early in the decision-making process, with Natasha Millson and her wife taking the incredible leap to move their family of two sons and

two fur babies through to the UK after receiving her ancestral visa.

Natasha and her family requested that Ladybug and Spirit travel at the end of November 2021, but a sudden cancellation by another family resulted in an offer by Genevieve, their consultant,

for them to travel earlier. They jumped at the opportunity due to the current state of travel to the UK and the large backlog. HARC – Heathrow’s Animal Reception Centre – has limited the number of pets travelling through their facilities from Africa to only 25 per day due to airlines still operating with a reduced fleet.

Natasha found that the greatest stress for her and her family was the anxiousness involved in not knowing the emotional state of their fur babies. Ladybug and Spirit are inside dogs who enjoy the luxury of sleeping in Mom’s bed, so updates were crucial for her and her family.

Ladybug and Spirit flew from Johannesburg to Cape Town for their international flight, which was subsequently cancelled by the airline. Natasha was assured by the PETport Management team that a new flight would be secured before the close of business that very same day. Ladybug and Spirit received their new flight, which was scheduled for four days later, so they remained in Cape Town at Pet Cottages from where Natasha and family received regular updates before their final trip back home to the UK.

Natasha explains that the immigration process is extremely stressful, especially during the current state of the world and the pandemic. “It’s like a rollercoaster ride,” she says. The advice she

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 or call 0867 227 678.

Brought to you by  **PETport**
It's not just business, it's personal

and her family would give any family looking to travel their dogs is:
“Don’t start planning it at the last minute. Give yourself a 3–4-month lead time so that you can prepare the documents, vaccinations, microchips and rabies serology that are needed. Be prepared for this. Be extremely flexible and be patient! Take into consideration flight plans and seasonalities. Flights might not be available at your time of travel.”

Natasha is ecstatic at having their fur kids home before her wife, and the human kids fly over in early December. Travelling during 2021 is no easy feat, and for any family the difficulties are tremendous, especially when throwing in

containers, cars, humans, vaccines, quarantines and the heartache of leaving family. PETport would love to extend our gratitude to Natasha and family for being a beacon and lighthouse for future families wanting to travel. Prepare in advance, be flexible and be patient – what incredible words of advice for navigating your family’s journey. 



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The Rough COLLIE (-ology)

Combining beauty with gentleness and intelligence

The Rough Collie dog has a beautiful, multi-coloured coat of long, rough-textured fur that easily identifies this amazing breed.

HISTORY

Rough Collies (and their cousins, Smooth Collies) originated in the Scottish Highlands in the 18th century, where they were bred with great care by farmers and shepherds to possess ideal traits for herding and guarding flocks of sheep – a mix of fearlessness, aggression, determination, and strength. However, Queen Victoria shifted public attention to the breed in the 1860s, and they quickly became a favoured breed of the wealthy upper class.

In the 1950s, the Rough Collie breed became better known as the all-American family dog thanks to “Lassie”. Over the show’s two-decade run, it became apparent how devoted and faithful the breed was as Lassie saved Timmy from the well and warned her family of danger each week. Although Hollywood sometimes exaggerates, the depiction of the Rough Collie as a loyal protector was spot on.

HEALTH & CARE

Rough Collies do need a lot of exercise as they have high energy when outdoors. However, they love being inside dogs, relaxing with the family. This breed is definitely not an outdoor-only

dog, and they can thrive in a small or cluster home as long as they get daily exercise. Like all dogs, they need to sleep inside for their own and their family’s safety. Their lifespan ranges from between 10 and 14 years. In terms of grooming, they’ll need a good brushing two to three times a week, especially when the seasons change twice a year and they shed more.

LIVING WITH A COLLIE

Rough Collies possess a sweet, appealing personality and keen intelligence. They’re generally very loving, loyal and trustworthy. The Rough Collie is very clever and quick to learn.

They respond well to consistent, reward-based training, and they tend to enjoy competing in agility, obedience or herding events.

Many Collies make great therapy dogs as well, due to their calmness indoors and medium height. Rough Collies can at times be very vocal, especially when they’re bored.

These beautiful dogs are family-oriented and love playing with children. If introduced properly, they’re great with other animals. Due to their tremendous loyalty, they’ll bond with all family members. 🐾



Khayelitsha Animal Clinic celebrates 25 years of helping Animals



Mr Joe and Angel

Twenty-five years ago, a Khayelitsha community member saw that his neighbours didn't know how to care for their pets. He took a shopping trolley and went door-to-door, feeding dogs and cats and educating people on their pets' needs. Mr Joe Manchu soon attracted volunteers, including many community children.

A bath was donated, which was used for dipping pets with fleas and ticks. Thereafter, a shipping container was donated, which became the first-ever animal clinic in Khayelitsha.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER

Today, 25 years later, Mdzananda

Animal Clinic is celebrating a quarter century of helping, healing and rescuing pets in Khayelitsha. The clinic now treats over 1,000 animals per month through their hospital facility, homeless shelter, mobile clinics and outreach programmes. Throughout this time, they've also put the pets' human companions at the forefront, educating, earning trust and working with them to become the best pet guardians they can be.

Lazola Sotyingwa was one of the children who helped Mr Joe with his animal-saving efforts. Now one of the Clinic's Animal Welfare Assistants, he couldn't be prouder. "At the beginning, we had no running water or

electricity. We carried buckets of water and ran extension cables from the neighbours. Today we're big, and we help so many animals. It's thanks to Mr Joe that the pets of Khayelitsha have help today."

THE VISION

The organisation's vision is to create a community which loves animals. They believe that an animal-loving community is a healthy community. By loving an animal one learns qualities such as respect, trust, non-violence, responsibility, and companionship. These are often not taught in townships due to the enormous economic and living condition difficulties



Celebrating a quarter century of help, healing and rescuing

Mr Joe bathing a dog



which take priority. By providing veterinary care, education and by forming partnerships inside and outside of the community, the organisation is well on the way towards its vision.

A MINDSET SHIFT

Dr Brian Bergman, the Clinic's Senior Veterinarian, says that over 25 years, he's noticed a significant shift in the mindset of the people. "Where previously pets were simply objects protecting the home, many of them are now companions sleeping in peoples' beds. Our welfare services and educational programmes have really transformed many pet lovers in the community," says Dr Bergman.

The clinic has launched a special

birthday edition 2022 calendar featuring 12 artworks, crafted by local artists to illustrate the heart and soul of Mdzananda.

Calendars can be purchased at outlets listed on www.mdzananda.co.za or by emailing marcelle@mdzananda.co.za.

"Our work has only been possible thanks to generous donors, supporters, monthly Paw Members and partners. Without this support, we could never have reached this enormous milestone," says Marcelle du Plessis, Fundraising and Communications Manager.

If you wish to support the organisation into its next 25 years, please make a donation to Mdzananda Animal Clinic, Standard Bank, Savings Account 075595710; become a Paw Member (monthly donor) at www.mdzanandasecure.co.za; contact info@mdzananda.co.za or visit www.mdzananda.co.za. 



Community children

Make travel a breeze with ECO-VET!



Taking the dogs on vacation this year? Stressed about spending hours in the car with an anxious pup? Worried about taking your doggo on a plane? ECO-VET has the solution!

ECO-TRAVEL is a natural remedy that helps pets cope with travel sickness, nausea and stress related to travel and transportation.

This product works best if three doses are given over a period of twelve hours before transport of the animal is expected.

ECO-TRAVEL can be used with ECO-FEAR to treat stress and shock, with ECO-HEAL as a first-aid remedy, as well as with ECO-VET's nutritional supplements.

Top tips:

- ECO-TRAVEL can also be used for cats and horses to keep them calm in transit.
- This product is also useful during thunderstorms and firework displays.

It's crucial to teach puppies not to be fearful of the car. We have some useful tips to help your pup adjust to travelling in a car:

- Administer ECO-TRAVEL one hour before the first encounter in the car.
- Put the puppy into the car with people – children are best. Allow them to play for 20 minutes.

- Repeat with the engine switched on for 10 minutes.
- If all goes well, drive around for five minutes.
- Increase the time spent in the car until a 30-minute drive is possible.
- If that doesn't work, always give ECO-TRAVEL one hour before the journey.

Why ECO-VET?

ECO-VET is a breakthrough in homoeopathic remedies for animals. Our products are simple to use, easy to understand and useful for treating a broad spectrum of common acute and chronic conditions in animals. ECO-VET products are gentle on animals and can be administered with little effort. The added benefit is that all ECO-VET products are registered with the Department of Agriculture in terms of Act no. 36/1947.

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For more information visit www.kyronlabs.co.za



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The hardest part about having a dog is saying goodbye. They bring so much joy to our lives that it's hard to imagine our lives without them. With a personalised memory plaque, their loving memory will always be with you. These beautiful, customised paw prints are perfect to place in your garden, in a special spot. To order, contact Diana on 082 447 71, or email jacksgardencreations@gmail.com

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Montego Pet Nutrition has launched its latest innovation into pet health and wellness. Introducing Montego XenPet, a complete range of premium, nature-inspired nutritional supplements. XenPet's Soft Chews supplement range aims to boost the health of your pet and contains natural herbs and botanicals which aid in allergy alleviation, calm anxiety, and support cognitive function. Each variant's functional ingredients have been carefully selected to ensure that the products effectively address key health concerns and enhance a dog's quality of life, while simultaneously providing dogs with a tasty chew. XenPet Soft Chews are available in five variants, including Allergy, Calming, Cognitive, Digestive, and Mobility supplements.



GREAT GROOMING WITH XENPET

Montego Pet Nutrition's grooming range is the first non-consumable pet-related product offering by Montego and is derived from essential oils and natural extracts, to give pets the care they deserve. Formulated to gently cleanse and moisturise dry, itchy, and allergy-prone skin, all grooming products contain ingredients that soothe, hydrate and nourish the skin and coat, leaving your pet happy, relieved, and smelling fresh. Montego's grooming products are made up of three conditioning shampoo variants, along with four refresh and soothing products. These include the Revitalising Conditioning Shampoo with Cucumber and Melon, Refreshing Conditioning Shampoo with Lemongrass and Coconut, and the Rejuvenating Conditioning Shampoo with Geranium and Buchu, along with Anti-Itch Deodorising Spray with Lemon and Verbena, No Rinse Foam Wash, and a Soothing Snout and Paw Balm with Coconut and Almond Oil. For more information, visit www.montego.co.za



MONTEGO JUMBO-SIZED MEGACHEWS

We all slightly overindulge in delicious food the festive season brings, and with Montego Pet Nutrition's new Bags O' Wags Megachews your fur-friend can be extra spoiled too. The 30cm jumbo-sized nutritious treats are extra-long and extra-delicious, making them an excellent choice for the festive season. 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. Visit www.montego.co.za for more information.



ULTIMATE ANIMAL NUTRITION – PURA PRIME+ PREMIUM PETFOOD

Pura Prime+ is a premium high-quality All Breed Adult Pet Food. This specialised formula with 22% protein is a highly digestible and palatable dry pet food. Pura Prime+ has no artificial colourants and flavourants and is enriched with Glucosamine and Chondroitin for healthy joints and added Vitamin C, organic selenium and increased levels of Vitamin E to boost your pets' immune system. Pura Prime products are manufactured in a world-class production facility with state-of-the-art equipment and technology, and an expert team of highly skilled nutritionists and experienced staff ensure peace of mind for your pet's well-being. Pura Prime+ is available in a 10kg bucket at your pet, vet or online stores. For more information, please visit www.uanafrica.co.za or contact 081 773 7978.



EVERY PUP DESERVES THE BEST START

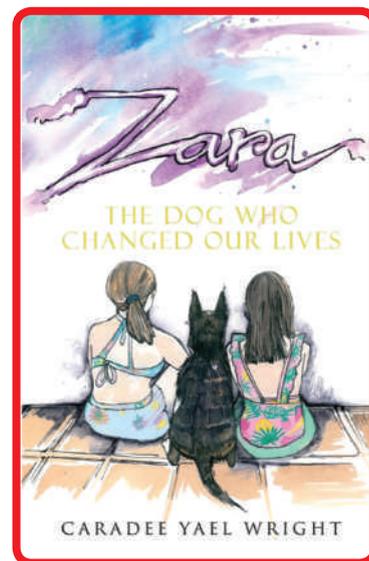


Lionel's Choice Puppy food provides the ideal balance of nutrients to aid the rapid growth in puppies. Our food is highly digestible, contains quality protein for muscle growth and energy and the correct ratio

of Calcium and Phosphorus to assist in the proper formation of bones and teeth. Lionel's Choice will give your puppy the foundation it deserves. Visit www.lionelschoice.com for more information, or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

HOLIDAY READING

Zara – The Dog Who Changed Our Lives by Caradee Yael Wright is the perfect book to snuggle up with over the holidays. All dog owners will relate to this story, and it will definitely make you laugh. And what's more, author Caradee is giving a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book to Adora-Bull Terrier Rescue! It's available as an eBook on Amazon, Kindle and Smashwords, and also as a colour paperback on Amazon. The good news is that it will soon be available on Takealot too. For more information, email claire@adorabullterrier.com



ALL DOGS LOVE TREATS



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DARG (CAPE TOWN)



BANJO s owner didn't want him. He's about four years old and loves hanging out with other dogs on the beach and going for walks in the forest. He enjoys being in his paddle pool and rolls over onto his back, pawing you for tummy tickles. Banjo's not good with cats.



BOLT is about two years old and was surrendered unwanted. He loves being on the beach and playing with other dogs. He's extremely agile and athletic and adores humans and other dogs. Bolt is very friendly and well behaved but is not good with cats.



APOLLO is just under two years old and is a very amusing dog. He adores his toys and will amuse himself for hours with them. He'll do well as an only pet or with a calm older female. He's super fit and healthy. Not good with cats.



ANDY is about seven years old and is a big teddy bear. He'd be fine with a female dog but isn't good with cats. Andy has a sweet nature and loves attention and scratches behind his ears. He came into DARG as a young puppy and would love to find a family to call his own.

DOGTOWN (GAUTENG)



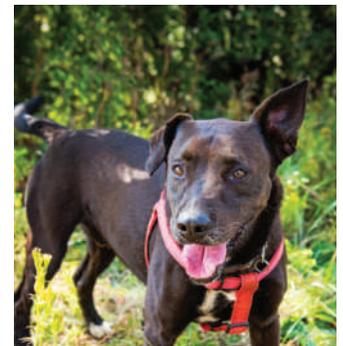
STEVIE loves a game! Hide and seek, fetch – you name it – he'll keep you entertained for hours. He's a super-friendly guy who enjoys cuddles and walks, and he has a good relationship with most other fur kids, including cats! He's also good with kids of all ages. Stevie seriously ticks all the boxes.



ASPIN is a strong, energetic girl who loves to go for walks and hikes, and she loves adventures with her humans. She's an entertaining girl with a great sense of humour. Aspin is super smart and loves training and learning new things.



ET made a dramatic entrance at Dogtown when he was found in a skeletal state. But now he's bright-eyed and bushy-tailed and ready for adoption. He's a senior dog so won't need more than a couch to chill on and someone to love him and provide treats! He has a good relationship with dogs and loves humans.



SCOTT is very responsive, loves going on long walks, and will adapt to a busy lifestyle. He's good at entertaining himself but likes to spend time with his people. He'd love a family that will love and care for him, as he deserves to be.

ADORA-BULL TERRIER RESCUE (VEREENIGING)



WALLY was picked up as a stray, but this sweet boy is all smiles and wagging tails. He's a big fan of playing ball and getting tummy rubs. He's around three years old and would be best suited as an only dog.



TOM is a three-year-old Bullie cross. He came to us as a puppy, so he's never had a home of his own as his whole life has been spent in a kennel. He loves walks, jumping on rocks, and he adores children. Tom is best suited as an only fur kid in a home.



RAGNAR is just over three years old, and he adores adults and small children. He'll need a home with high walls as he's a jumper. He was surrendered to us as he wasn't getting along with his father, so he'd be best suited as an only dog.



KIRA is about seven years old and was living rough on a farm where she was attacked on many occasions. She slept outside and didn't receive any love or care. Even through that, this girl is all love and she just wants to be close to humans. She needs a second chance with a new family.

WHERE TO FIND THEM...

ADORA-BULL TERRIER RESCUE (Vereeniging)

WALLY, TOM, RAGNAR & KIRA

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. At the moment, we have a waiting list for Bull Terriers that need to join us in Vereeniging. Beyond the food and maintenance cost for the Bull Terriers, our biggest expense remains the vet fees. In order to cover these expenses, we rely on the goodwill from our supporters and the public for donations. All Bull Terriers in our care are vaccinated, microchipped and sterilised prior to rehoming. To adopt, volunteer or donate, contact Dania Skone on +27 72 183 7850 or email danial@adorabullterrier.com Claire Horne on +27 76 141 4286 or claire@adorabullterrier.com or Louise Brolly on +27 82 635 4803 and email address info@adorabullterrier.com

DOGTOWN SA (Gauteng)

STEVIE, ASPIN, ET & SCOTT

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. Please contact adopt@dogtownsa.org for more information or to adopt one of our dogs.

DARG (Cape Town)

APOLLO, BANJO, BOLT & ANDY

DARG is a pro-life, non-profit organisation that rescues, cares for, sterilises and rehomes previously abused, neglected and abandoned cats and dogs. DARG provides a crucial role for the communities of Imizamo Yethu, Hangberg and the greater Hout Bay area. Situated on a large plot in Hout Bay, Western Cape, DARG provides shelter for its rescues through housing an extensive cat garden, cat sanctuary, outdoor and indoor kennel areas, as well as indoor rooms for those animals in treatment or rehabilitation. DARG relies on the public's generosity and support through donations. Visit DARG on Main Road, Hout Bay, Cape Town, phone – 021 790 0383 or email info@darg.org.za

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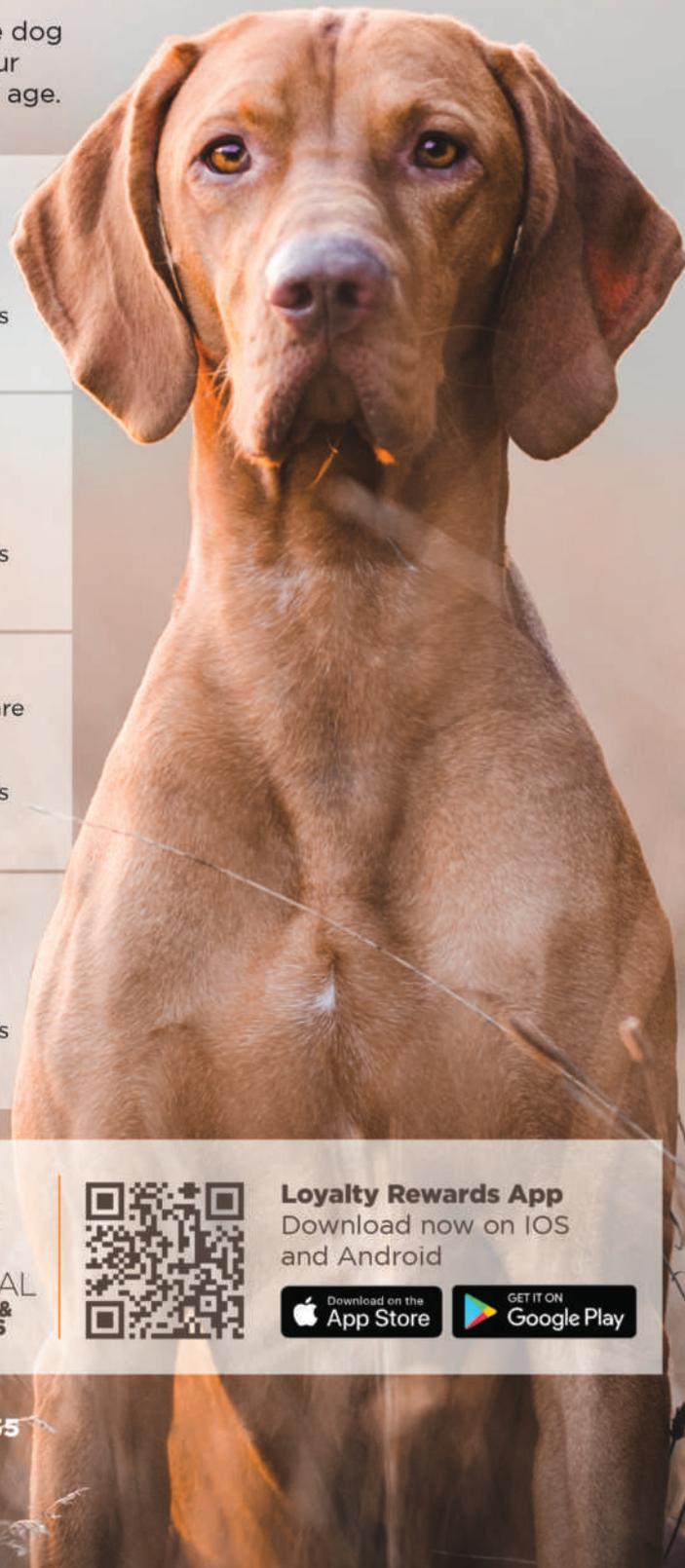


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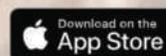
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