

GREAT STORIES, HEALTH & BEHAVIOUR ADVICE AND MUCH MORE!

# Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers



## LAB (- ology)

Friendly and loyal companions

Ask the Vet  
Focus on  
heat stroke

**11**  
Good Reasons  
to Adopt

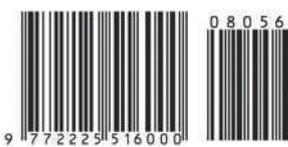
The Healing Power  
of Dogs  
for the Elderly

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The rescued  
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## PET BRANDS

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# Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers 

*Handsome Joel, adored by his mom Jane Hoar. Photographed at Walkhaven by Philson Photography.*



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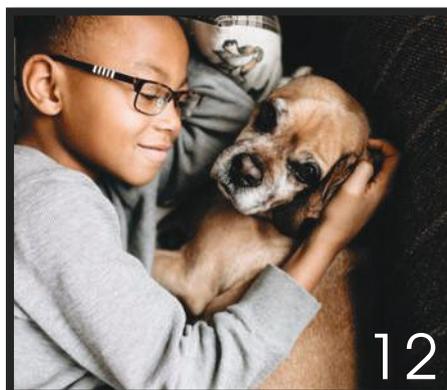
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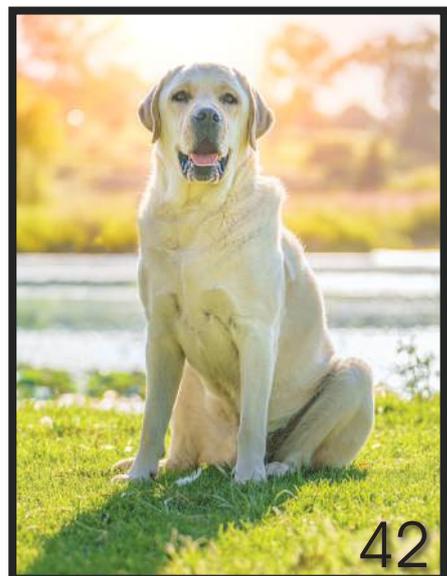
Friendly, loyal and loving

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# Dog talk



**N**ot a day goes by without me being in awe of dogs. And I don't just mean how they look (yes, they're absolutely gorgeous!) – it's their wonderful unique personalities. Thinking about the various dogs that I've shared my life with over the years, I have such wonderful memories about their personalities. Bear had a fantastic sense of humour, Zardo was incredibly gentle, Zaska was obsessed with balls, Storm was highly intelligent, Katchita sat like a human, Tyke was mischievous, Luly was serious, and Amy was so in love with my sons. Then came my Lolo, who'd "talk" to me, and Diza, who was so lazy but loved walks, only to collapse onto her tummy halfway down the road and I'd have to literally carry her back.

Our Holly is just the sweetest little girl who loves hunting insects. She has this way of lying on her back and looking up at you that's just heart melting. My Rottweiler, Drake, has so many wonderful personality traits and funny habits. He's my shadow, and when I'm working you'll always find him at my feet – sometimes lying on my feet. Over the weekends, he'll be lying on the couch next to me watching television or sitting outside with me. He waits outside the toilet door in the hope of getting an empty toilet roll holder, and he just knows when the toilet roll is getting near to the end. He'll paw at me and bark when he wants

something, and in the morning, we get these exuberant cuddles that we call his "shnoofles" as he winds between our legs and waits to be hugged and snuggled. I began this new year with the promise of being grateful for at least ten things every day, and my Drake and Holly make that list every single day.

I've been doing a lot of research on how dogs can help with anxiety, depression and loneliness, and during this pandemic I'm sure that many dogs have helped a great number of people get through their days. Sadly, so many dogs have been surrendered and abandoned for various reasons, and the one that really makes me both sad and angry is when people emigrate and leave their pets behind or they simply want a new dog. It does cost money to emigrate with your dog, but would you leave your children behind? Wouldn't it be a better idea to take your furry family member with you and rather leave some furniture behind to save costs? Our shelters are jam-packed with abandoned and surrendered dogs, and I quite honestly don't know what we'd do without them. I just worry that there may come a time when there are just too many dogs looking for homes and not enough space in the shelters. What then?

The best we can do for our shelters is to adopt, volunteer, help to raise funds (do a collection in the office, which can include cash, food, blankets and jerseys), and donate – remember that every little bit helps.

We had great fun putting this issue together and hope you enjoy it. This is your magazine, and we'd love you, our dog parents, to let us know if there are any articles that you'd like to see. So, snuggle down with your precious fur kids and enjoy!

*Sharon*

## Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sharon Dale  
editorial@caninezones.co.za

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Patti Barron-Lowe

### DESIGN/CREATIVE EDITOR

Ian James

### COPY EDITOR

Glyn Price

### EDITOR'S ASSISTANT

Aidan Wiggill  
online@caninezones.co.za

### EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Julie Bezuidenhout  
(Accredited Animal Behaviourist)  
Dr Larry Kraitzick (Veterinarian)  
Tracy McQuarrie (Dogtown SA)  
Estelle Meldau (Woodrock Animal Rescue)

### ACCOUNTS/ADMIN/SUBSCRIPTIONS

Telephone – 011 475-1536  
Email – devad@polka.co.za

### ADVERTISING QUERIES

Chelsea Blake  
Tel: 011 475 1536  
advertising@caninezones.co.za

### CIRCULATION

Carike Bosman - Allied Publishing  
Email - carike.bosman@apub.co.za



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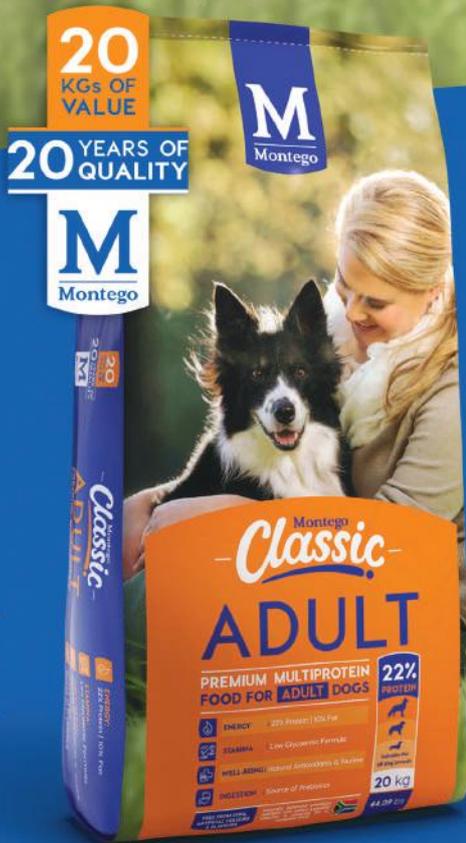
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# Dear Canine Zone

## PUTTING FOR PUPPIES GOLF DAY



On behalf of the Roodepoort Krugersdorp SPCA, I would like to thank Canine Zone most sincerely for starter kit inserts in the form of copies of Canine Zone towards our recent Putting for the Puppies Golf Day. I'm pleased to report that we raised over R45,000-00 through the event!

The golf day had been scheduled to be held on 5 November, but the day was rained out and we had to reschedule to 24 November 2020. Fortunately, on the 24th we had beautiful sunny skies and the golfers thoroughly enjoyed their day out on the course.

Many, many thanks for also donating copies of Canine Zone to give out at our two breakfast events held during November. We're so very grateful to you for your wonderful support and for helping to ensure that our events

were such a big success. As you can imagine, we have a lot of animal lovers attending, and they simply love receiving copies of your mag.

The funds raised through our events will greatly assist us in continuing to provide a high

standard of care for all the furbabies that we look after. We feel extremely blessed to have your help. Please know that your kindness means so very much to us and all the animals.

– **NICOLE MANNERS (Fundraiser)**



# UPFRONT

## DOGS ARE BEING TRAINED TO SNIFF OUT COVID-19 IN HUMANS

A new programme at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine is now training dogs for disease detection and doing research to see if dogs, with their superior sniffing abilities, are able to help with early detection of COVID-19 in humans.

The hope is that dogs will be able to pinpoint the scene of COVID-19 and identify people who are asymptomatic. This would be invaluable for airports, schools, shopping malls, offices and other public places

"Reports of dogs sniffing out cancer have been documented since the 1980s and many human cells produce volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that have distinctive odours and are present in human blood, saliva, urine or breath,"

Cynthia Otto, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and a director of Penn Vet's Working Dog Centre, said in the statement.

Dogs have up to 300 million scent detectors, compared with around 6 million in people, so it makes sense that this incredible ability can enable dogs to identify various diseases, including COVID-19.

In the Penn Vet programme, eight dogs will initially be trained in a laboratory setting. Over three weeks, they will first learn to recognise the smell of COVID-19 in saliva and urine samples from infected patients, through a technique known as odour imprinting, according to another Penn Vet statement. The dogs will then be tasked with

differentiating between those samples and samples collected from people who don't have the disease. Trained dogs could be ready to start sniffing out COVID-19 in humans by July, according to the Penn Vet statement.

*Acknowledgement – Live Science*



## PREHISTORIC DOG FOUND IN SWEDEN



On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, 2020, an 8,400-year-old dog was found buried in Sweden. This is one of Scandinavia's oldest canine burials.

The stone-age dog was discovered in

Sölvesborg, Blekinge County, about 550 kilometres south of the capital, Stockholm. The dog is currently being kept at the Blekinge Museum, but it's not yet been decided where it will be exhibited.

Ola Magnell, a zoo archaeologist at National Historical Museums, Sweden, said: "Since these dog burials are rare and the bones are very fragile,

I spent three days carefully exposing the skeleton."

Magnell added: "A few bones were found in a pit and I could see that it was several bones from one animal. First, I

could identify a carpal bone from the front paw and later the mandible was exposed so I could confirm that this was definitely a complete dog."

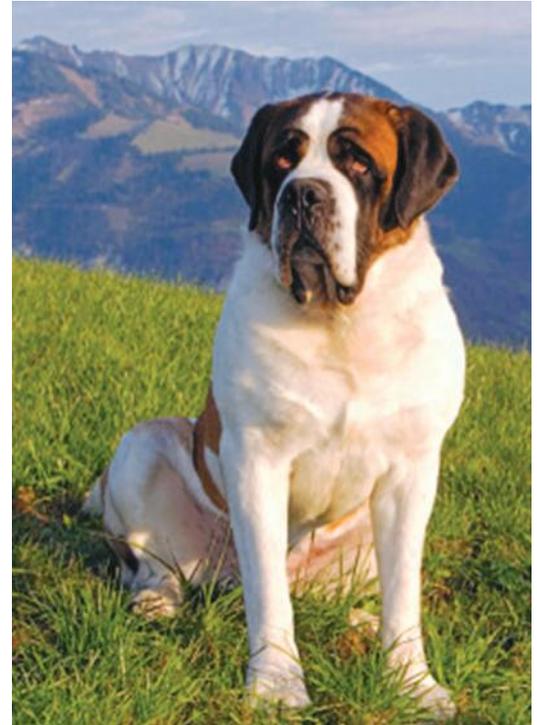
He said that while the dog's breed no longer exists, it could be compared to "a Spitz, a dog like a Siberian husky, but with jaws powerful as a wolf."

The area of Sölvesborg would have been a coastal area until rising sea levels covered it with gyttja, sediment rich in organic matter, and preserved it for years. The remains of a dog that lived alongside humans, believed to be between 14,000 and 20,000 years old, were discovered in Italy earlier last year.

*Acknowledgements – Naina Bhardwaj, Business Insider US. Johan Nilsson/TT News Agency/AFP via Getty Images*

## 10 TREMENDOUS DOG FACTS

1. There are more than 150 dog breeds, divided into eight classes: sporting, hound, working, terrier, toy, non-sporting, herding, and miscellaneous.
2. Puppies and kittens can be adopted as early as eight weeks of age. Until then, they should stay with their moms and littermates.
3. Contrary to popular belief, dogs don't sweat by salivating. They sweat through the pads of their feet.
4. Dogs may not have as many taste buds as we do (they have about 1,700 on their tongues, while we humans have about 9,000), but that doesn't mean they're not discriminating eaters. They have over 200 million scent receptors in their noses (we have only 5 million), so it's important that their food smells good and tastes good.
5. The term "dog days" has nothing to do with dogs. It dates back to Roman times, when it was believed that Sirius, the Dog Star, added its heat to that of the sun from July 3 to August 11, creating exceptionally high temperatures.
6. An adult dog has 42 teeth.
7. If a dog isn't spayed or neutered, a female dog, her mate and their offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in six years.
8. The most successful mountain rescue dog ever was a St Bernard named Barry, who lived during the early 1800s and saved 40 lives.
9. The Basenji is the only barkless dog in the world.
10. Dogs are capable of locating the source of a sound in 6/100ths of a second by using their swivelling ears like radar dishes.



## START THE NEW YEAR BY JOINING A CLUB!



TEARS Animal Rescue in Cape Town have launched The Woof & Whiskers Club to enable them to raise funds in support of various projects, including –

- Spay and Neuter projects, which are a critical component in their commitment to alleviate suffering and to end pet homelessness.
- Mobile Clinics and Welfare Veterinary Hospital, enabling them to deliver veterinary and essential primary healthcare to the animals in the vulnerable communities they serve.
- Animal Shelters, where we provide shelter, rehabilitation and care for

up to 200 companion animals.

- Feral Cat Project, which practises a TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) policy to reduce and maintain feral cat populations and to enhance the lives of feral cat colonies across the Western Cape.

Join the Woof & Whiskers Club and be a hero for companion animals. As TEARS management says – “As individuals we are strong, but united we are stronger! If each of our supporters commit to a monthly debit order, we can make a huge impact for animals in need. Your monthly donation of R50 will go a long way and, as a member of the Woof & Whiskers Club, you stand a chance to win monthly cash prizes!”

For more information, visit [www.tears.org.za/woofandwhiskersclub](http://www.tears.org.za/woofandwhiskersclub) or email [woofandwhiskers@tears.org.za](mailto:woofandwhiskers@tears.org.za)

## HOW DOGS BRING MAGIC INTO OUR LIVES



The therapeutic value of our relationship with dogs is increasingly recognised by researchers. But what is it about dogs that makes them such great companions and so good for our mental health? One key aspect appears to be social recognition – the process of identifying

another being as someone important and significant to you. The bond that forms between owner and dog is, it seems, similar to the bond that a mother forms with her baby.

We know that healthy social bonds can play a key role in mental health; without them, we become lonely, depressed and physically unwell. And dogs, it seems, can fulfil that role.

Although scientists have some understanding of social recognition and where it takes place in the brain, we still don't entirely understand how it happens. The missing link could be oxytocin, the so-called "love" hormone. Oxytocin has a key role in both childbirth and lactation, but it also has an increasingly recognised role in our social behaviour, acting as a chemical messenger in

pathways that control trust, mother-infant and human-pet bonding.

And there are other reasons that dogs and therapy animals are increasingly recognised as being good for our mental health. In addition to helping to alleviate stress, anxiety, depression and loneliness, there are all the benefits that come from having to exercise a dog. Daily walks outdoors boost physical and emotional well-being. Playing with a dog, throwing balls, even picking up dog poop can give you a workout.

The bottom line – just stroking your dog and gazing into his or her eyes may produce a more reliable sense of peace and well-being than any synthetic product.

*Acknowledgement – www.theguardian.com*

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### Practical Dosing Guidelines:

- A 'dose' is 5 pillules (dogs, cats & small animals) and 10 pillules (horse & large animals)
- One cannot overdose, thus rather dose 'too frequently' initially than not.
- Once a positive response is observed, decrease frequency.
- The 'purest' homeopathic method of dosing is onto a 'clean mouth', directly from the cap. However, with animals one must be practical, adaptive and inventive; Dogs and horses generally love the sugar based pillules but one can crush 5-10 pillules between plastic spoons, add a little water and pour/syringe into their mouths. (the remedy is instantaneously absorbed via the buccal mucosa in the mouth).
- One can dissolve 10–15 pillules into the pets drinking water (preferably a plastic bowl).
- As a last resort, add into some food or the feed.
- (The correct remedy will 'break through' and heal).
- Cats will often take with yoghurt or milk.



### Dosing:

- In Acute cases such as stings, bites, injury and shock, dose every 15-30 minutes x 3 doses, then every 1–2 hours x 3 doses, thereafter every 4 hours until relief is obtained.
- For General, less acute conditions, 3 x Daily till well, will suffice.
- For more CHRONIC conditions, E.g. Arthritis or Kidney issues, dose just once daily, once a positive response to the acute phase is achieved. (Stop dosing once desired results are achieved – dose only while symptoms are present).

**NB:** Should a positive response to the symptom, not be seen within 3-5 days, then referral to a homeopathic Vet or Veterinary Practitioner is strongly advised.



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- anti-virabac 30c** homeopathic 'antibiotic', stimulating the body to fight viral & bacterial infection.
- arthritis complex 30c** inflammatory pain, arthritis & rheumatism.
- bites 30c** serious bites. i.e. spider, scorpion, snake & dog bite.
- boils & abscesses 6c** boils, abscesses & ulcers (can push out splinters).
- calming 30c** general calmative - helps reduce anxiety & cope with stressful situations.
- cystitis 30c** acute bladder infection, frequent burning urination - often involuntary.
- dermatitis complex 12c** general skin conditions, incl. mange, dermatitis, eczema, dry unhealthy stinging, itching & burning skin.
- d.v.c. 30c (diarrhoea, vomiting & cramping)** gastro-intestinal symptoms & dehydration.
- fracture/osteo 30c** bone & teeth maintenance - repair of fractured bones.
- haematonc 6c** general blood tonic. Excellent in recuperative situations e.g. post biliary & post-op.
- hayfever 6c** itchy eyes & nose, sneezing with watery discharges.
- injury 6c** bruises, sprains, muscle strain, nerve & crush injuries. Shock of accident.
- kennel cough & cold 30c** chest symptoms, including cough, cold & fever.
- muc drainage 30c** drains thick mucous from chest, nose, eyes and ears.
- otitis 30c (ears)** general ear conditions; ear canker, otitis externa, pain & itching.
- ringworm/fungal 12c** skin & hoof conditions caused by ringworm fungi; itching, irritation & hair loss.
- renal 12c** kidney & bladder issues of a more chronic nature.
- snuffles complex 12c (cats)** specifically to treat the associated symptoms & conditions of cat rhinotracheitis.
- sting & itch 30c** insect stings & bites. Itchy skin of an allergic nature.
- throat 30c** sore, inflamed, infected throats.
- travel sickness 30c** nausea, vomiting & vertigo associated with motion.
- t.r.s. 200 c** shock, grief, traumatic experiences & separation anxiety.
- herbal antiseptic solution (topical)** a healing soothing antiseptic solution for topical application.

# Your Photos



**ZIZOU** is an incredible dog with a big heart who loves adventures and is a massive fitness junkie. She's also training to be a Search & Rescue K9. She's my big cuddle bug. – **DIANE LOGIE**



**EMILY, SHEP, SHEILA, DIPSTICK, LASSIE, ZARAH, ZEUS & ALASKA.** This is my family – yes, I have a big pack of dogs, and they all get along so well. My dogs are my life, and I love them all so much. – **SUNE STEENKAMP**



**FAYE** is my little princess. She's three years old and is the most cuddly, loving Bully. She definitely keeps us busy with her playful attitude and silliness, and people just adore her wherever she goes. – **LAUREN MALLET**



**DEZZIE** is a miniature Doberman and Yorkshire Terrier mix. She's the apple of my eye and has quite a personality. – **HANLI ADENDORFF**



**COOPER** (English Cocker Spaniel) is our new edition to the family – here he was only eight weeks old. He's a very active little boy who loves running around and playing with all his toys, but most of all he loves his mom. – **SUNE VAN DER MESCHT**

**ZEUS** was my birthday present two years ago, and I can't imagine life without him. He's a real Mommy's boy and spends his days lounging on my lap or barking at me to throw a ball for him. He loves to take nice long baths with his mommy, stealing socks out of the laundry bin, playing ball, and barking at any animals on the TV screen. – **ZOZAAN GROBLER**



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



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**PUPS**, our senior dog, enjoying every minute cooling off in the fountain at de Waal Park in Cape Town. He was rescued in a terrible condition and adopted from Plumpets 13 years ago.  
– **LINDSAY LINKLATER**



**BEAU** is my beautiful, royal Frenchie.  
– **ZENTA JONES**

**DONATELLO** is playful and loves tummy rubs. He loves to swim and jump in the water with us. We call him “Puppy”, and now he thinks that’s his name!  
– **NATALIE, EMILY AND LAURA MULLER**



**ELLA** is the sweetest, loveable, most loyal dog ever!  
– **SIMONE SAUER**



**EMILY** is my four-year-old Labrador, and she’s just full of life. She loves to play with her ball all the time. I love her to bits.  
– **SUNE STEENKAMP**



**NADAL & CLEO** are our gorgeous fur kids. We adore them, and they’ve made our lives complete.  
– **DEBBIE ROSS**

# Help!

**GOT A QUESTION?**

E-mail us at  
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 and we will forward your mail to our  
 behaviourist Julie Bezuidenhout  
 to answer



## DOES MY DOG LIKE OTHER DOGS?

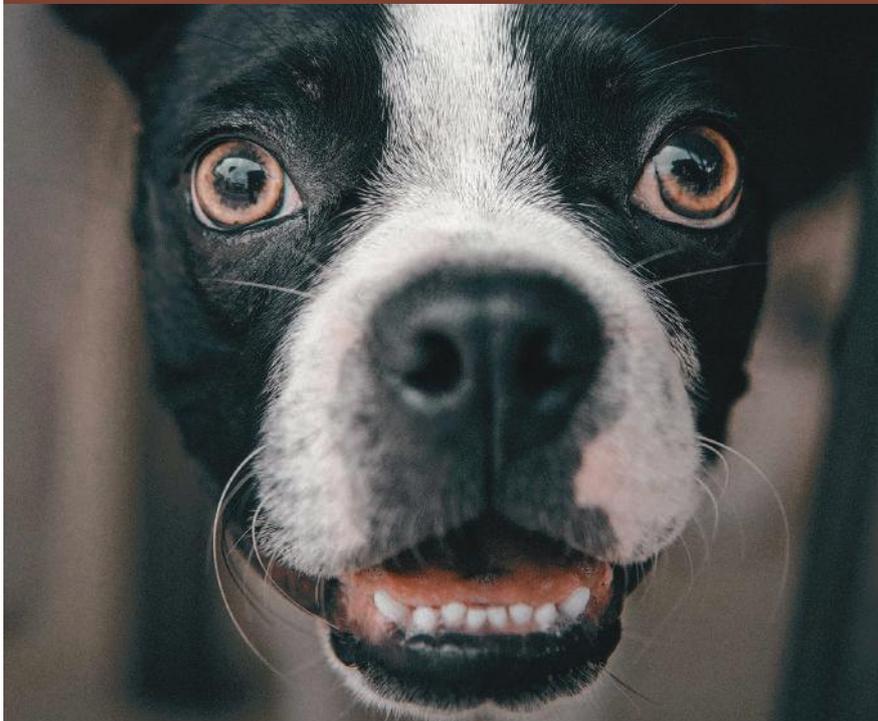
*We have a two-year-old Shar-pei who's been neutered. Lee didn't go to puppy socialisation, but when we take him for a walk on the beach, on his lead, he always wants to greet other dogs and gets really excited. We hold him back and tend to go to beaches where there are no other people or dogs. We're way too nervous as we don't know what he'd do with another dog. What's the best way to "test" to see if your dog will be sociable with other dogs? Other than that, he's very well behaved and listens to me and my husband. – JILLY MONROE*

**JULIE SAYS** – Being nervous when your dog wants to greet other dogs isn't recommended, and therefore you're doing your dog (and yourselves) right by avoiding other dogs, particularly because

you don't know the outcome. However, most dogs are social creatures and love engaging with other dogs in a positive way (provided they're not fearful and are relatively social). I suggest that you enrol at a reputable dog training facility so that your dog can interact with other dogs in a controlled environment. Let the trainer know that you're nervous in this situation so that they can give you special attention.



## MY DOG CRIES FOR NOTHING



*We adopted a little male cross breed during lockdown in July. We've fallen totally in love with Izak, but he seems to whine and cry a lot. We've had him checked out at the vet and there's nothing physically wrong with him. He'll literally walk around the house whining for no reason that we can see. What could be the cause of this and how do we help him?*

– SHANNON DE WET

**JULIE SAYS** – There could be several reasons why dogs whine and cry, even if there's no stimulus. Izak is more likely than not stressed and anxious over so many things, and possibly, during this pandemic, he may be picking up your anxieties too. I suggest you enrich his environment with lasting chews and interactive toys. Take him on structured walks to expend pent-up energy, and play structured games with him (throw the ball and teach him to bring it back). Dog training lessons at a reputable dog training centre will benefit you and Izak tremendously as well.

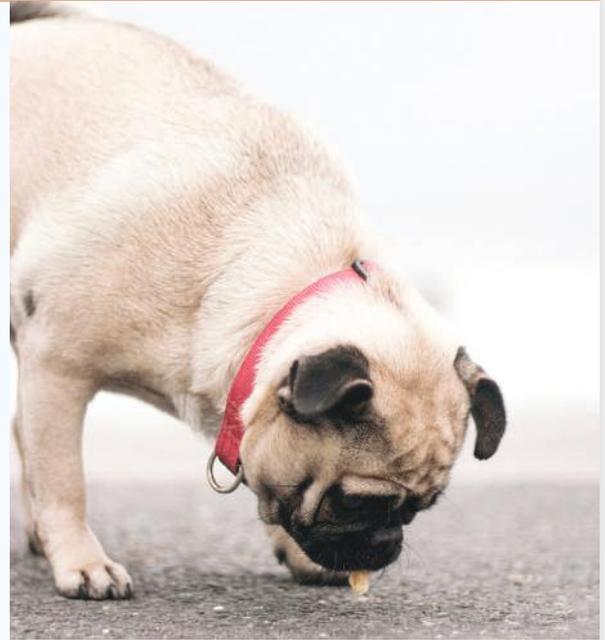
## WE WANT TO TRAIN OUR DOG TO ONLY ACCEPT FOOD FROM US

We recently read an article in another magazine which said that to prevent poisoning you should train your dog to only take food from selected people. Do you think this is a good idea, as what would happen if the regular family who feeds the dog are away? If you do think it's a good idea, what would be the best way to do this? Does one use a phrase or word to tell the dog to take the food? I'd be most interested in your reply.

– WILLIAM FREELAND

**JULIE SAYS** – It's never a good idea to condition a dog to only take food from specific people, as this could result in disaster should those specific people not be available to feed him. Teach your dog not to take food off the floor under any circumstances. Practise a structured

(in a specific non-breakable bowl/bowl on a piece of paper, cardboard/rug) feeding pattern, and give him a particular eating word. Proffer treats by hand in a specific way (turn your hand/use a command). It's important to keep your dog safe from criminals who use poisoning as a way to harm your dog so that they can invade your property. Poisoning mostly occurs during the night, therefore it would be best to let your dogs sleep inside. Divide your backyard from the front and keep your dogs in the back so that they aren't easily reached by outsiders.



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# TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

*By Adam Bailey*



**W**hat's more beautiful than the sight of a child with his or her beloved dog? But sadly, in reality, many children haven't been taught how to respect and treat dogs, sometimes resulting in dogs being rehomed or even euthanised when a child gets growled at, nipped or even bitten after teasing or mistreating a dog.

Teaching your children how to behave around animals, and dogs especially, can be the difference between long and happy days with your dogs and a really bad situation where children and dogs can both get hurt.

## **RESPECTING BOUNDARIES**

No matter how adorable dogs are, they do have boundaries.

For example, knowing that your dog doesn't like to be disturbed whilst eating is vital information that your children need to learn.

Perhaps your dog doesn't like to be picked up or teased with a toy? You need to understand your dog's own unique personality and likes and dislikes and teach your children to respect those boundaries.

As a rule, dogs don't like to be disturbed when they're eating or sleeping, and they don't like children sitting on them. A dog won't be happy if it's being teased, poked or prodded. They don't like their hair or tail being pulled.

Learn how dogs communicate

discomfort, irritation, pain or displeasure. Growling and baring teeth don't always necessarily need to be interpreted as aggression; sometimes they're simply ways your dog's telling you to back off. Teach your children how to understand a dog's body language and when to back off.

Lead by example and supervise your children's playtime with your dog closely.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF KINDNESS**

It's so vitally important to teach your kids to respect animals so that they'll also respect humans and our planet as a whole. Empathy is an important thing for children to develop, and teaching your children to respect animals can impact the way they

## Teaching your children to respect dogs (and all animals)



view environmental issues and respect for nature and our planet as well.

A great way to teach children about animals and how to respect them is by observing them in their natural environments. It's a wonderful bonding and teaching opportunity to observe and learn about the birds, insects and lizards in your own backyard. Or visit shelters or sanctuaries and help out in some way, either by volunteering, collecting food, toys and blankets, or by helping to walk, groom and care for dogs in the shelter's care.

### BE WISE

I've often seen posts on social media of a toddler sitting on a dog, and you can see that the dog isn't comfortable and is in distress. Is it fair to let the dog go through this discomfort, and then, if he or she does growl or snap, it's the dog's fault? Here are a few things that you need to teach your children (and their friends when they come over to visit) –

- Teach your children to always ask an adult before approaching a dog (or any other animal) they don't know. This is especially true for those that are service dogs and are working.
- If an adult says the dog is friendly, reach out your hand with the palm facing up and gently move it towards the pet's nose for sniffing. Don't touch the dog's eyes, ears, nose, mouth or genitals.
- Always pet a dog gently, with no pulling or tugging, and never from behind. Don't let your child sit on a dog.
- Never leave a young child unsupervised with a dog. Accidents happen, even with the most trustworthy children and pets.
- Never approach any dog, even your own, when it's eating, sleeping, chewing on a toy or caring for its young.
- Don't make loud noises or sudden moves when approaching a dog.
- Don't let your child touch a dog or stand near him during times of heightened excitement – like when your dog's barking at something.
- Teach your children not to provoke or tease a dog. Half of all attacks to children are considered provoked.
- Make sure your children understand that a dog is a living creature to be cared for and respected.
- Tell children that animals have needs and feelings, and they rely on us for love and care.
- No hitting, kicking, or biting a dog! 🐾



# SPOT - YOUR SYNTHETIC BEST FRIEND

*By Aidan Wiggill*



**R**leased in September 2019 and built by robotics company Boston Dynamics, Spot is a fully autonomous four-legged robot. Guided by an on-board artificial intelligence software, Spot is able to adaptively process data and draw insights out of any given environment in order to navigate and keep itself balanced while performing tasks. Spot is even able to self-correct if it falls over or encounters an impassable object. You're also able to remotely control Spot if you encounter any areas that it cannot traverse on its own.

If you have an extra \$74,500 (over one million in South African Rands) lying about, you can now purchase a Spot unit as a civilian. Spot was made available to the general public as Boston Dynamics' first commercial product to enable non-academic and non-military users to explore what this type of

robot can do in everyday situations.

## WHAT CAN SPOT DO?

Spot was purpose-built to navigate unpredictable and dangerous areas that humans can't access, while simultaneously collecting and transmitting useful data, such as 3D scans, still images, and thermal readouts, to their human companions. Spot can also carry and power up to 14kg of equipment or debris while easily navigating over loose gravel, grass, curbs, and stairs. This makes Spot a perfect utility companion for industry use in construction, oil and gas, mining, and research. Outside of business interests, Spot is also fantastic for public safety enforcement, as well as healthcare and search and rescue procedures.

In November 2020, it was reported that a Spot unit

## THIS ROBOTIC DOG IS CAPABLE OF A LOT OF AMAZING THINGS, BUT IT LACKS THE PERSONALITY AND INSTINCTS OF AN ACTUAL CANINE

was being deployed in Chernobyl's Exclusion Zone, one of the most dangerous and inhospitable places on earth. After tragically exploding in 1986, the nuclear reactor has only been covered in an effort to contain its nuclear core, but this is obviously not a permanent solution, and eventually the site will need to be cleaned up and safely decommissioned. This is where Spot comes in. Spot's ability to minimise the kicking up of radioactive dust while navigating complex terrain, which shockingly includes over 30 tons of contaminated dust, 16 tons of uranium and plutonium, and 200 tons of radioactive lava, makes it uniquely qualified for a remote radiation survey. Throughout 2020 Spot was also trialled as a method

to measure temperature, rate of breathing, pulse and blood oxygen saturation in healthy volunteers, in an effort to test the applications of Spot during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### WILL SPOT REPLACE MY DOG IN THE FUTURE?

The short answer is no. Spot is capable of a lot of amazing things, but it lacks the ability to process and display emotions in any capacity, and of course it also lacks the personality and instincts of an actual canine. These personality traits could be replicated and coded in the future but would still only be a simulation of real feelings and not the real deal. So, you can tell Rufus that he's not being replaced any time soon. 🐕



# ELVIS –

*I'm in love, and he's all shook up!*

*By Lesley Gaigher*



**O**ur journey together started in May 2018 when a man brought his five dogs to the gathering point to be vaccinated during an Outreach. Four of them were in tip-top shape, but the fifth, a little Jack Russell boy, drew our attention. He had no balance and kept falling over.

The owner asked if he could surrender him to us since he didn't have the means to care for a special needs dog. Naturally, we obliged! I took charge of little Bobby, as he was then named,

and even though we still had a full day ahead of us, he was basically glued to my arms for the rest of the afternoon.

Our vet at the time, Dr Courtney van der Merwe, examined him and a few additional enquiries were made to try to determine the cause of the tremors. Although it couldn't be conclusively identified, it appears as though it could either be the after-effects of contracting a virus known as distemper during his puppyhood, or a condition called cerebral

hypoplasia. Regardless, neither could be treated and both meant that he'd be able to lead a relatively normal, but definitely happy, life! Besides the shakes and occasional trip, he was given a clean bill of health!

## **ELVIS COMES HOME**

I renamed him Elvis and brought him home. Initially, we said that Elvis would only be with us in "foster care", but it soon became clear that he wasn't leaving us – ever! All our dogs were as smitten as us, and I really believe that

# Miracles follow my boy around...

they could sense he was vulnerable and took mercy on him. Within a week, we made the announcement that we'd be making his stay with us official.

Elvis has improved greatly since he became a part of our family. He still falls a lot, but he always gets right up again and continues to chase after me or the other dogs with such gusto that all you can do is watch with the cheesiest smile on your face. He plays fearlessly and wholeheartedly. All who meet my little boy fall under his spell – he's at his happiest when he can cuddle up to someone and reciprocate affections. He's become a permanent fixture at my side, and I feel so fortunate to call him MINE!

## OUR PRECIOUS GIFT

On his first "Gotcha Day", I wrote a letter to Mr Previous Owner – thanking him for my most precious gift – thinking that I'd never have an opportunity

to really express my gratitude towards him. I truly believe that this man loved Elvis too. If he hadn't, I don't think Elvis would be alive. How easily could he have been discarded in the bush, not being able to keep up or find his way home? A lesser man than Mr Previous Owner could have abandoned or even killed this helpless soul. I know he wanted more for Elvis than he could give, and his kindness towards this broken little body meant that he made his way to us.

Then, out of the blue, over two years since we adopted Elvis, guess who arrived at the SPCA to have his dogs vaccinated? Yes, you guessed it – Mr Previous Owner!

My colleagues put two and two together when he said he'd once signed over a shaky little dog during an Outreach, and I rushed over as soon as I got word. I had to shake his hand and show him how well my boy was doing.

Here I was given the chance to tell this sweet man how he'd changed our lives, to convey my appreciation face to face, something I really believed would always be a pipe dream. Miracles genuinely follow my boy around! 🐕



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# MIGHTY MOOSE

By John Penrose



**P**it Bull Terrier – Just the words immediately conjure up all sorts of ideas and prejudices. These misconceptions mean that the so-called “power breeds” more often than not get a bad start to life, are mistreated and used for unspeakable abuses before being abandoned or euthanised, often well before they’ve had any love whatsoever. There’s so much education still to be carried out on animal welfare all over the country, but there’s a special battle going on with the Bully family, including Staffies, Pitties and Bull Terriers.

That being said, this is the story of a little boy named Moose, a 16-month-old Pit Bull Terrier that was rescued by TAG (The Animal Guardians in Benoni) – a magnificent group of people led by Annalise, who predominately rescues Pit Bulls and then endeavours to rehome these magnificent dogs. Their shelter is

near to large, open stands, townships and betting rings, which means that they unfortunately come across many of these dogs needing help. The problem they face, though, is how to find them a forever home once they’ve been rescued.

## COMING TO THE RESCUE

In November 2019, I was contacted by the co-ordinator of Paws 4 You (a therapy dog training and outreach group), Eileen Calvert. They’re based on the East Rand, and I was told of a loving and friendly male Pit Bull that had been in the shelter since he was only a few weeks old. I already had two Pit Bulls (Tequila and Molly), one of which was a 10-year-old qualified therapy dog. I’d also recently lost one of my other dogs, so Moose could be a good fit. I was sent a photo of a “Christmas Moose”, and we immediately fell in love with him.

The challenge now was how to integrate an adult Pit Bull into a household with two other fully grown females of the same breed, with my second dog being a four-year-old dominant female whom I’d rescued from the SPCA. We all hear so many stories about the “rules”, such as no females together, no siblings, integration being so difficult, they’re vicious, not good with kids, and so on, but with all this in mind we went ahead and began the process of trying to get Moose integrated into our family.

Thinking about how to approach this, including “what ifs”, is so important before even beginning to try and bring another adult dog into the family. Where will he sleep? How will I keep them separated but over time allowing more contact? How much time will I have to spend on the integration, and what are my current dogs protective of? How do I show the new addition lots of love without causing jealousy? There were many other questions too, and it’s almost like a small war plan, but it certainly makes life easier.

## STEP ONE

First step was to take my two dogs over to meet Moose. Of course, Tequila had no issues at all. We then decided to bring Molly over daily to walk and interact with Moose. Whilst he had no major setbacks, Molly wasn’t so sure, and although there was no aggression present, there certainly was a fair amount

# The joy this Pit Bull has brought to us and our other dogs is indescribable

of growling – not from Moose, but from Molly! After a week of socialising, Moose came over to our home for a visit, and there was a small altercation when he decided to walk into Molly's hiding spot of toys and sticks. Yes, I'd removed the toys, but the hiding spot was just as important to Molly.

A few more meet-and-greets and we decided on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December that it was time for Moose to come and live with us as a "foster" but that we could hopefully be his new forever home. This despite some people advising that I'd never be able to integrate the dogs into a family, whilst others said just give it time.

With this in mind, Moose spent his first night in a comfortable dog trailer in a separate part of the yard, then the following two nights in the house, separated by internal security gates. Then he slept in a crate in the lounge so that socialising and sniffing could take place. This all allowed for a gradual socialisation programme to take place. Small steps are always the secret!

As dogs on leashes often take on an aggressive attitude, the main aim was to have them interact off-leash through bars and crates so that if there was an issue, no one would get hurt. This extended to Moose being outside whilst Molly was inside, but during all this time my older, calmer Pittie, Tequila, was interacting with both the new and the existing

dog. This helped immensely as it showed both that there was nothing to fear from something new.

## CALMNESS OF TEQUILA

The calmness of Tequila began to create an atmosphere of calmness – which is essential. Slowly having one, then both, then all the dogs on the couch – with one finger under the collars just in case – continued to encourage familiarity and close distance tolerance. Walks were daily and there were never any issues on neutral ground. It was all about Molly understanding that Moose was no threat and that he was a new play buddy.

However, by the fourth day, her interest in him increased beyond wanting to let him know it wasn't his house. During this period, I tried adding calming supplements to their food AND one night with a muzzle on each, then just a muzzle on Molly. Although these methods are known to work, in this case they weren't really needed, but they were part of the original planning. Again, the more thought put into how to make it work makes the process so much easier and fun.

## ON THE SEVENTH DAY...

Then, as they say, on the seventh day all was revealed. Molly began to bounce around Moose's crate, begging to play with him with no growling. I ignored this the first time, then later that day she repeated the desire to play, and just after lunchtime, almost

seven days to the hour since he was brought home, he was let out of his crate and the two played for the rest of the day until they were both exhausted.

From that day on, they've all been best friends, and Moose is as happy as anything in his new home with his new family. Some people were surprised that we could reach the goal so quickly, whilst others weren't. Being prepared to have patience for days, or even weeks, will most often mean a good result well within that time.

## WHAT I HAVE LEARNED

What have I learnt over the years? Well, there are several rules that I guess apply to most dogs when wanting to integrate a new member of the family, but with Pitties and similar breeds there are a few special and important guidelines that always assist.

1. Pit Bulls only want to please their owners at all times, and therefore discipline needs to be in the form of clear and easy-to-understand voice commands. Whilst some dogs need much harsher voice commands, Pit Bulls don't respond well to being yelled at and often panic. In fact, even an argument amongst humans stresses Pit Bull Terriers. Remembering that everything was new and unknown when I first brought Moose home helped me understand why he behaved the way he did. Not badly, just differently.



2. Reward everything with love and attention. Pit Bulls are dogs that just don't want treats, they want love. One of the reasons they're often used for cruel activities is their loyalty and desire to please and get rewarded with a pat or soft voice – traits that make them such loyal and loving pets.
3. Socialising and training are always highly recommended for hassle-free walks, having visitors, encountering other dogs, etc.
4. They're not dogs to be left out in the backyard and ignored. Pit Bulls consider themselves part of the family and need to be treated as such. Whilst this goes for all pets, this breed takes to heart being treated as an ornament rather than a family member.
5. Integration needs to take place in a calm manner, with calm people, and with as less stress as possible. Most dogs pick up the stress and it simply transfers to them, making training or socialising that much harder.

6. Pit Bulls are great family dogs, but just like any other dog, they mustn't be left alone with small children. Any dog of any size will react when their tail or ears are pulled or eyes poked, and the strength of this breed simply makes the result worse when an accident occurs. Remember, there's always a reason a dog bites. Minimise the reasons and life becomes easier!

### OUR HAPPY FAMILY

Whilst Moose is enjoying his new home and two new sisters, his adoption has brought joy to us as a family, and the two other Pit Bulls he now calls family are just as happy. One has a new play-mate and the other a friend with which to lie on the couch and cuddle. In fact, seeing them interact shows that it hasn't just been Moose who's won a new life, but my other dogs have gained as well. And needless to say, the joy he's brought to us humans is indescribable.

The way to a Pit Bull's soul is through their eyes, and almost every emotion can be seen through this breed's eyes. This helped so much when introducing Moose to his new home. Watching his and the other's eyes always assisted in understanding what was going on in their minds, and responding accordingly made it that much easier. Looking into Moose's eyes now shows all the love and dedication only an animal can give.

Moose is currently attending obedience training (although he was extremely well behaved from day one) where he gets to play and socialise with other people's dogs. He's in line to be assessed this year as a qualified therapy dog through Paws 4 You.

Remember, for as many bad things that we hear, there are so many great stories out there, just as there are so many more "Moose" ready to be adopted and loved. But one thing can be guaranteed – we always get more love back from rescues than we could ever give.

### HOW TAG RESCUED MOOSE

*By Annalise and The TAG Team*

Moose was surrendered to us in 2019 at eight weeks of age, along with eight of his siblings. Three days later, all the puppies came down with Parvo and we sadly lost two of the pups to the virus. Fortunately, after a week of intensive treatment, Moose and his five other siblings pulled through. Moose's siblings were homed out between the ages of 4-5 months old, and Moose was homed out to his new family between the age of 5-6 months old, but unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances regarding Covid-19, he was returned to us and patiently awaited his new forever home. Eventually, he met John, and just like that a new and exciting chapter of his life had begun! 🐾

# The healing power of dogs for older people

By Adam Bailey

## Interacting with a dog can alleviate depression, loneliness, and isolation

**I**t's a scientific fact – animals can help reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and increase social interaction and physical activity. Dogs can also have an astounding effect on symptoms of depression and feelings of loneliness

Belinda Connor and her husband, Ronnie, couldn't agree more. Soon after they both turned 70 and they sold their business, they adopted Kallie, a sweet little crossbreed dog, from the SPCA. "Because our whole lives revolved around work and we never had children, we started to feel very alone and afraid. When Kallie joined the family, she brought energy and love into our home again," say the couple.

Belinda and Ronnie decided to adopt an older dog and Kallie is now nine. They signed up at their local dog training school and have made friends there who meet up at a local dog walk venue once a week. "We're now looking to train Kallie to be a therapy dog so they can take her to visit old age homes, hospitals and schools in our area. She's also made us feel a lot safer in our home. Kallie has given us a new lease on life!"

### FOCUSING ON THE DOG

When a senior person adopts a dog, it helps them to focus on something other than their physical problems and negative preoccupations about loss or ageing. Interacting with a dog

can alleviate depression, loneliness, and isolation. For people who've lost their spouse, or whose grown children have moved away, a dog can be a great source of friendship and companionship.

Dogs can help relieve the stresses of people with dementia or Alzheimer's. Dementia patients experience bouts of agitation, and dogs can help calm them down. Interacting with a dog can stimulate the appetite of folks who might otherwise not eat regularly as a result of these conditions. Walking or playing with a dog is a great source of exercise, and scratching or grooming a dog can help work out arthritic hands and arms.

### DOGGY STRESS BUSTERS

Being with a dog can help reduce cortisol (a stress hormone) and help boost levels of serotonin (the "happy" hormone). Dogs seem to have an instinct for when sad or frightened people need to be comforted. Furthermore, the American Heart Association recently released a study indicating that owning or interacting with dogs can help prevent heart disease!

### IF YOU CAN'T HAVE A DOG?

There are many ways for the elderly to

interact with dogs if they can't share their lives with their own dog. Going to visit a shelter and spending time with dogs can be a boost for the older person as well as the dog. There are a few therapy dog organisations in South Africa who, if contacted, can bring their dogs to visit old age homes. Older people can also spend time with their grown children's dogs. Another way to keep busy and help dogs at the same time is to volunteer to help shelters in a variety of ways, such as fundraising or even knitting winter blankets and jerseys for the dogs.

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

In the event that a dog outlives their human, there are steps to ensure that the dog will be cared for. For example, making arrangements ahead of time about where the dog will go should their owner no longer be around to care for them.  Acknowledgements – Barkpost/  
[www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/)



# LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE

**A dog bed is more about improving your dog's comfort and enjoyment of their living space**

**W**hile 2020 brought with it many negatives, we can't overlook the positives that have come from last year: spending time at home with our family, our pets, understanding what's really important to us, and that simplicity is key. Self-care and all that comes with it has played an integral role in getting us through a year most of us would rather forget.

When it comes to self-care, proper sleep hygiene is one of the latest trends to sweep the human health world, from weighted blankets and comforters to smart beds and silk bedding. This trend has trickled down into the pet health world too. "With all the extra time we've been spending at home with our pets, now's as good a time as any to offer them a luxurious new bed, comforter or cushion, just like yours. Plus, if you're looking to give your home a facelift, why not choose a new dog bed to complement its new look?" says Marycke Ackhurst, Hill's Pet Nutrition's pet behaviour expert.

Pet parents already know how crucial it is to ensure their fur babies' health and safety, and if you're planning on adopting in the upcoming months, make sure you have comfortable bedding options once you welcome them into their forever home.

## IMPROVING YOUR DOG'S COMFORT

A dog bed is more about improving your dog's comfort and

enjoyment of their living space. "However, since our pets get far more sleep than we do, providing them with a good bed can be very important to improve their quality of life. Spending too much time lying on and sleeping on hard or rough surfaces can lead to pressure sores on their elbows, knees and paws," says Ackhurst.

When looking for a dog bed, Ackhurst advises some basic numbers pet parents should keep in mind:

- The size of your dog
- Your dog's age

Then there's the age-old question: what does your dog want? While our pups can't communicate with us directly about the types of materials and surfaces they prefer, there are signs pet parents can look out for. "Why not place several dog beds throughout the house in different locations, or rotate the bed towards different directions to see where they gravitate towards," Ackhurst explains. It's best to keep an open mind, though, she continues.

Your dog may prefer to sleep in cooler areas of the house during the day and in the comfort of your bedroom at night. Or they may prefer quiet and secluded areas in a noisy home environment full of other pets and children — during the current stay-at-home reality many are facing, the latter may be more applicable.

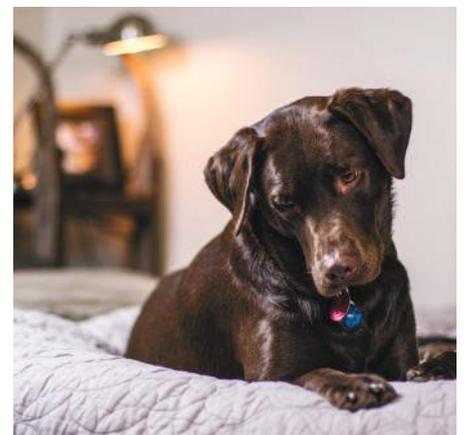
## CHOOSING THE RIGHT BED

What's important to remember

is that even though they may like their bed, your dog could still sleep in other places, like the floor, depending on temperature, thickness of their coat and general preference. "If your dog doesn't like his bed, he won't sleep on it, regardless of where it is."

Ackhurst adds that your dog's bed is likely to deteriorate over time, so it helps to know when you'll need to replace it. She provides the following tips:

- Think about how frequently your dog will use his dog bed.
- Does your dog's bed get dirty or soiled regularly?
- Does the bed have a foul smell that doesn't go away even after a thorough cleaning?
- Have you noticed deterioration or damage to the integrity of the dog bed cover or stuffing? Exposed stuffing will not only reduce the support and comfort of the bed, but may be easy for your dog to chew or swallow, which can become a health hazard, not to mention messy. 🐾





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# A Tribute to “Reeva the Diva”

By Chris Kritzinger (Schnauzer Rescue South Africa)

## Rescued from a puppy mill and finally finding love

**I**t's with sadness but also a lot of love that I write this. Dearest little Reeva – your mom and dad wrote this article literally days before your death. We never thought that you'd leave us so soon. You looked so amazing when you came back from the doggy parlour, and I couldn't wait to take the photos we'd use to tell your story in Canine Zone magazine.

You were one of the dogs we rescued last year that deeply impacted on me as a rescuer. We fixed your botched cesarean, your mammary gland tumours, ear infections, the worms and rotten teeth, and you became an angel with a tendency to nip ankles for affection. We all loved and cared for you deeply. Play in peace, beautiful girl, and thank you that you never gave up on us as humans.

I now hand over to passionate Schnauzer lovers Mike and Claudia Vorster to tell you how Reeva was rescued and found love. They wrote Reeva's fairy tale story before she passed away recently.

– Chris Kritzinger – Founder of Schnauzer Rescue South Africa.

### OUR REEVA

We, Claudia and Mike Vorster, are the proud parents of Reeva Vorster. We've always loved the breed, and after having lost one of our Schnauzer family members, we took the decision to rather adopt.

Claudia came into contact with SRSA and Chris via Facebook in July 2019. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2019, Chris shared a video clip of Reeva, who was up for adoption. She was an old lady (11 years old). She had serious health issues due to being bred like there was no tomorrow. Rotten teeth, mammary gland tumours, ear infections, botched caesarian, to list a few...

Once we saw the video clip, we knew we wanted to give this old girl the best retirement home possible. Thankfully, we passed the home inspection well, and then our other dogs had to be introduced to Reeva to see if they'd get along. This also went well. All that was left was to wait for the medicals to be completed and we could collect her. Her “GOT-

CHA” day was on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.

From that day on, Reeva came into our lives with a bang and has completely taken over the house, the beds, and our hearts. Initially, we thought she might be deaf, as she didn't react to her name, but I suppose she wasn't used to being spoken to (we talk to our dogs like children). She took some time to adjust to her new surroundings. I don't think she was used to running on grass, or sleeping indoors, or having a warm bowl of food twice a day; also, the endless stream of snacks, and biltong that followed, really surprised her, but she adapted quickly (her weight as well). Older ladies are supposed to be a little rounder, aren't they?

Occasionally, she gives us a little health scare, but all is good, and she's incredibly happy with her family, as well as her three other sisters, a year on. (Yes, we adopted another Schnauzer from SRSA in March this year.)

Without Chris, and SRSA, I shudder to think what would've happened to Reeva, as well as all the other rescues that they've saved, loved, taken care of, treated medically, and homed. Every single rescue that's come through SRSA has been placed with the right people, at the right time, and it's all thanks to Chris and SRSA.

**Editor's Note** – Our plan was to feature the heart-warming story about how Reeva was rescued from a puppy farm by SRSA and how she found love with her new family. Sadly, shortly before we finalised our editorial, Reeva crossed the Rainbow Bridge. We wanted to publish this tribute to a brave little girl and also to highlight the terrible abuse that dogs endure in puppy farms across South Africa. Play in peace, precious Reeva. 🐾



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## Seasonal allergies

# Ways to help your dog



Our pets can also suffer from seasonal allergies and be allergic to natural, seasonal substances such as plant and tree pollens, mould spores, dust, feathers and fleas, as well as chemicals such as those found in household cleaning products, cigarette smoke and certain perfumes.

The immune system overreacts, and your dog may lick or scratch themselves, experience itchy, swollen skin, sneeze repeatedly, develop itchy eyes and even suffer from diarrhoea and vomiting. In some cases, a secondary infection may develop.



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## A few simple changes can make all the difference.

Here are a few simple changes you could make to help control the discomfort your dog may be feeling due to seasonal allergies, thereby reducing the risk of more serious problems.

### Reduce the damp

Minimise the amount of time your dog spends in damp environments, such as basements, bathrooms, or laundry rooms, as these places are more susceptible to mould growth. Reduce swimming activities and ensure that your pet dries thoroughly.

### Clean surfaces

Vacuum at least once a week, and remember to clean curtains and rugs that may have picked up dust and pollen. Use natural flea and external parasite sprays and powders for surfaces where your pet lies regularly.

### Keep beds clean

The surfaces your dog comes in contact with at bedtime can become covered in allergens, so make sure they're kept clean by washing them weekly in hot water. Place towels or blankets on top of beds (yours and theirs) and chairs to make this task easier. Wash soft toys regularly.

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### Bath time

Prevent dry, itchy skin by giving your dog a bath more often with a gentle, hypoallergenic anti-itch shampoo that contains a soothing ingredient such as oatmeal, aloe, or evening primrose oil.

### Change your daily walk routine

If possible, avoid walking your dog in the early morning or late afternoon when pollen levels are typically highest. Steer clear of fields and parks where offending plants are common.

On returning home, wipe your dog's body and paws with a moist cloth or a hypoallergenic, fragrance-free grooming wipe. Pay special attention to the paws. Some pet parents soak their dogs' paws in Apple Cider vinegar (mix 2 water:1 AC vinegar) to remove pollen and other substances.

### Off to the vet

If your dog won't stop licking, scratching, and chewing, has red and irritated skin or hair loss, make an appointment to see your vet. A professional can provide more aggressive treatments such as antihistamines, steroids, or allergy shots, also known as immunotherapy.



**LIONEL'S CHOICE**

Holistic Nutrition

# DECIDING WHICH DOG IS RIGHT FOR YOU

By Dr Larry Kraitzick, Bruma Lake Veterinary Clinic



**D**ogs form an important part of our family. They require time and energy, but the rewards you receive in return can be huge. They're good company and are a source of limitless unconditional love.

In order to make the most of this valuable relationship and prevent stress and problems, it's essential to consider your situation and do your homework with regard to the breed, type and age of dog that you want to adopt. If you live alone and work twenty hours a day, adopting a dog may not be an option.

## WHAT SIZE IS YOUR HOME?

Any dog you get should be suitable to not only your lifestyle, but your surroundings. If you live in a shoebox flat, then a very active or very large dog isn't a good choice. You don't want your

dog to develop health issues, be bored, start stressing or destroy things. Very active and very large dogs really belong in larger homes with lots of outdoor space.

Keeping a dog in an upstairs flat isn't really fair on them, unless you take them out on walks daily. Dogs require an adequate amount of yard space for running and playing and need to be taken out in order to be stimulated. Examples of very active dogs include Jack Russell Terriers, Border Collies, and Huskies.

## PUPPY OR ADULT?

Puppies require the most work when it comes to house training. If you (a) don't want your things chewed up, or (b) don't have the time or money to train the puppy, consider adopting an already housebroken, adult dog.

## BREED?

You need to do a lot of research on the breed before getting the dog, as different breeds have different characteristics and needs, as well as potential health issues.

Often a particular breed of dog is misunderstood for being "naughty" – some are runners, some are diggers, some are yappers, and some are escape artists. For example – everyone loves Bulldogs, but if not looked after properly or fed the right food, they can have multiple health issues.

If you're adopting a large breed puppy (for example, a Labrador), you should only take them from their mom and siblings when they're eight weeks or older; medium breeds such as a Spaniel, from 10 weeks and older; and



## It's essential to consider your situation and do your homework before adopting a dog

a toy-type breed such as a Toy Pom, Pekingese, or Chihuahua should be 12 weeks and older.

### WILL THE NEW DOG GET ALONG WITH MY PETS?

When adopting a pet, if you already have pets, always research to determine the likelihood of your new dog getting on with your existing pets. For example, Huskies tend to chase and even attack cats; playful energetic breeds need energetic playmates. It's not a good idea to get a large breed energetic pup if you have an old dog with arthritis.

### CAN I AFFORD A NEW DOG?

Remember to budget for vaccinations and sterilisation. Sterilised pets are much happier and have fewer behavioural issues. You also don't have to worry about strange dogs jumping into your property in order to mate with your dog, your dog wandering to mate, or your dog falling pregnant if she's a female.

I would advise putting your new pet on a medical aid. Treating injuries and illness can cause financial strain and even lead to terrible choices if you're unable to afford an expensive procedure – for example, a spinal operation in a dog paralysed by a slipped disc.

### PREPARING THE FAMILY FOR A NEW DOG

Children need to be taught

respect and boundaries with pets before getting a dog. Each member of the family should also be assigned responsibilities such as feeding, grooming, taking the dog out for their toilet requirements and taking them for walks.

### WHERE TO FIND A NEW DOG AND HOW?

And last but not least, ADOPT DON'T SHOP. Millions of amazing dogs are available at the SPCA and other rescue shelters. Shelter dogs are just as precious as dogs from breeders. If you are set on a specific breed, there are breed-specific shelters where you can visit and spend time with the breed before taking one into your

home. If you're fond of a particular dog, these shelters often allow you to foster that individual to see if they fit into your family.

Remember, dogs are living beings with physical and emotional feelings and needs. It's our responsibility to ensure that we can look after these before we adopt them. Unlike human children, they depend on us for their entire lives.

It's also our duty to teach our children responsibility, kindness and how to deal with sickness and death. Pets can be invaluable in this respect. 🐕

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References: Therapeutic Efficacy and Safety of Undenatured Type II Collagen Singly or in Combination with Glucosamine and Chondroitin in Arthritic Dogs. D'Altilio M, Peal A, Alvey M, Simms C, Curtsinger A and Goad JT. Toxicology Mechanisms and Methods, 17:189-196, 2007



# RESCUE REHAB SOUTH AFRICA

*Ronel De Villiers (RRSA)*

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**R**escue Rehab SA was established in 2015 to support, uplift and upskill animal welfare and rescue organisations. We do this by sharing opportunities and assisting them to become sustainable, by expanding their own capacities and inspiring leadership.

We aim to reduce the suffering of animals by assisting welfare and rescue organisations through -

- Strategic programmes such as compulsory mass sterilisation and standard husbandry initiatives.
- Humane education initiatives which seek to develop respect for animals through Best Practice Solutions and Education programmes.
- Better understanding of and access to the legal system for the protection of animals.
- Providing practical operational solutions for the management of shelters and rescue organisations.
- Focus on governance and sustainable financial management – budgets, income, and funding

support.

- Improve volunteer effectiveness through up-skilling, placement, training, and ongoing support.

Globally, we collaborate with various like-minded organisations to address animal welfare-related issues within specific levels of government. A few examples of these projects are the banning of big bang fireworks, ending live export, promoting governance and compliance in the animal welfare sector as well as municipal pounds.

Rescue Rehab SA provides a platform for rescuers to fulfil their ambitions and leave everlasting impressions of their passion and efforts to ensure a kinder world for future generations.

For more information on our current projects, stakeholders' reports, or to become involved with our causes, please visit [www.rrsa.org.za](http://www.rrsa.org.za) or email us on [info@rrsa.org.za](mailto:info@rrsa.org.za). 

# LET'S GET REAL!

*By Tracy McQuarrie (Dogtown/Barking Mad)*



I'm sorry, dog lovers. It's about to get real. We're in an epidemic when it comes to dogs being abandoned. Not a week goes by when we don't hear the rumblings of debates about No-Kill vs Kill shelters, pro-life or life at all costs, and I'm not going to lie - I'm getting tired. Tired of explaining how we need as many well-run shelters for animals as possible. Right now, we're fighting a losing battle. It's exhausting always begging for funds, begging people to adopt our babies, receiving abuse daily from people who've never helped an animal shelter in their life, but believe we can and must make miracles happen and find their dog a home by the end of the week because they're suddenly moving to Australia.

## **DOING THE BEST WE CAN**

Every day we are punished because we want to make sure, no matter what, that the dogs of Dogtown receive the best care we can provide. I believe they deserve nothing less. Humans have already failed them, and I refuse to keep dogs and simply just feed, water and give shelter. They need more, they deserve more. Unfortunately, then people criticise us and say we don't need funds because we have well-trained staff, so we must have money. We only have money that our supporters donate to us. Those donations determine what we can and cannot achieve. If we cannot provide our dogs with mental, physical and emotional stimulation daily, then our dogs are being treated worse than hardened

criminals for crimes they did not commit.

At Dogtown we can only take in another life when one of our dogs is homed. We can't miraculously create a garden for just one more dog as everyone seems to think. It doesn't work like that. We receive calls for help for, on average, 15 dogs, on a daily basis. Just one more dog, they say. We simply can't keep up. Our adoptions are at an all-time low; we have over a hundred adoptable fur kids here at Dogtown who are just hoping someone will look at them and fall in love. How can we save more when we can't home the ones we have? We're at our wits' end. We don't sit on our laurels hoping a home will come along; we actively try and find them homes every day. But it just doesn't seem to be enough.

Every night I go to sleep worrying about the dogs we couldn't take in. What will happen to them? Are they safe? How could we have saved them? The stress and anxiety is never-ending. Then people go on a frenzy bad mouthing the local pounds. Why for the love of dogs would you want to close down a pound that can investigate animal cruelty? That can take in that dog that the pro-life shelter can't. Surely a chance of finding a home is better than being dumped on the side of the road.

## **OUT OF CONTROL**

The number of animals being dumped is out of

## The number of animals being dumped is out of control

control, and the funds to help charities like us and others are drying up. We can't continue at this rate. Sometimes we have had vet bills that have reached a staggering R100, 000 and we're not alone - animal shelters around the country are struggling and we all need your support. The current situation is just not sustainable. We need help, and we need it fast!

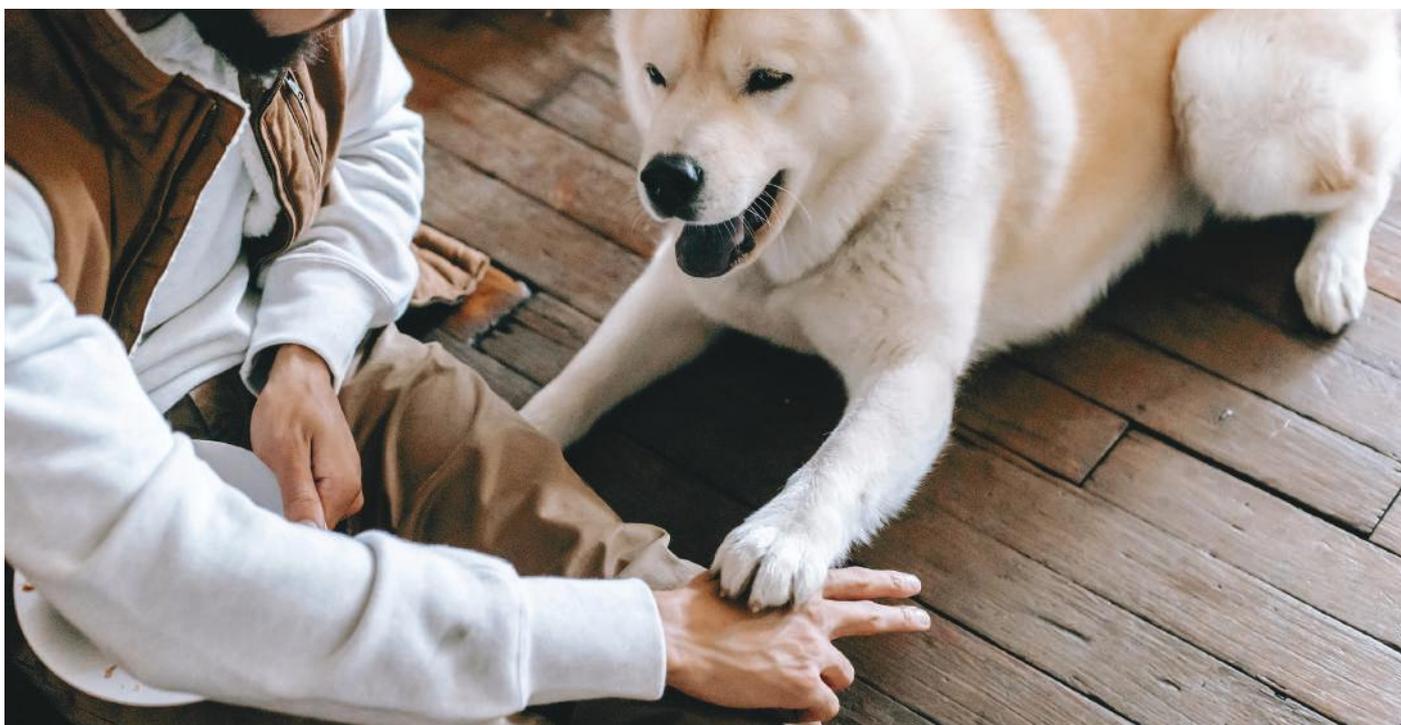
As much as I like to focus on the great work we do, and the awesome strides our dogs and caregivers achieve each day, this all costs money, and if we don't find a way to find more of our dogs loving homes, or more people to help us with their time or funds, things are going to have to drastically change. It's crunch time.

We honestly thought once we had all our dogs in one location things would be easier. From a management - and dog-care side it definitely is, but this past year has been a doozy so far in terms of the number of bills we've incurred and the huge drop in adoptions and donations.

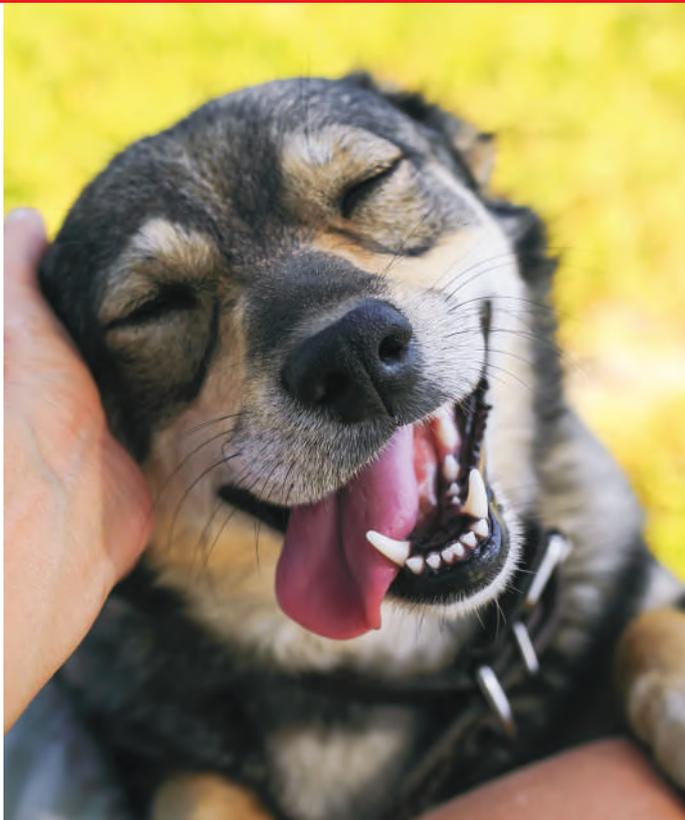
### HOW YOU CAN HELP...

If you can help your local shelter financially, please tell your friends and family about their work. A big help for Dogtown would be for more people to see and hear about us. Animal shelters are desperate for corporate support, so if your company can help, please tell them about us and other animal charities you support.

At Dogtown we not only support our own shelter, but our donors invest in many other animal-welfare organisations. Through our unique, sponsored Click-to-Feed initiative, we're able to donate up to two tons of food to selected charities around the country every month. This falls under our division, Barking Mad, whose website serves as a platform to showcase pets in need of homes. Our other community-outreach division, Spay-it-Forward, aims to assist low-income families to sterilise their pets, thereby decreasing the alarming number of unwanted litters and pets that exist in our country. Visit [www.dogtownsa.org](http://www.dogtownsa.org) for more information and/or SMS dog to 38919 to donate R10. 🐾



# 11 GOOD REASONS to ADOPT



**W**ith thousands of beautiful dogs waiting for their Forever Home in shelters across South Africa, here are just a few good reasons why adopting a dog is the right thing to do!

1. You'll get better background info. You may learn more about the dog you're adopting when you adopt from a shelter – including their background, energy level, and how they might get along with other pets.
2. You can adopt a dog that's already been spayed or neutered. Shelter dogs are usually already spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and sometimes even microchipped. This can save you a lot of money, which you can then spend on toys for your new dog.
3. You're saving lives. Adoption not only moves a precious dog from vulnerability to safety, but creates space at the shelter, and moves more resources and attention to the remaining dogs. Bringing a shelter dog into your family will open up another space for a dog in need to be cared for until he's adopted too. In shelters where they're forced to euthanise as they don't have enough space for all the homeless dogs, you're literally saving an innocent life.
4. It's more compassionate than buying. Dogs from pet stores often come from cruel conditions and irresponsible breeders. If you buy a puppy from a pet store, you're encouraging backyard breeding and puppy farm breeding.
5. You may find a dog better suited to your personality and needs. A good dog shelter is invested in the well-being of its dogs and is thus committed to creating matches that take a dog's personality, dream home, and special needs into account.
6. You're sending a positive message. When you proudly tell others you chose to rescue a dog, you're sending a message that individuals can take effective action to save lives, fight cruelty, and end suffering.
7. You'll save money. Adopting from shelters is a lot less expensive than going to a breeder. In fact, animal shelters are usually the least expensive of all ways to acquire a dog.
8. Your adoption fee will help other dogs (and cats). When you adopt, your adoption fee will allow the shelter to continue its mission of helping animals in need.
9. Adopting a shelter dog will improve your life. Having a dog keeps you active, reduces stress, and helps children do better in school and avoid allergies.
10. The dog you pick may already be socialised and house-trained. Shelter staff put in a lot of work to learn about the dog and set him or her up for a successful transition into a new home.
11. You're giving a dog who may have had a hard life a better one. When you've adopted a homeless dog, it will bring you incredible joy to know you literally changed his or her entire world. 🐾

# A MOMENT OF MAGIC

*By Stella Meldau (Woodrock Animal Rescue)*



## A moment of magic occurred, and Kiara's life changed forever

### A NEW LIFE FOR KIARA

When I was asked to recount a story of the month, one which stands out is the story of Kiara, an Afrikanis-type dog with a look of an Alsatian, who was brought into our shelter four years ago. Arriving heavily pregnant, this excellent mommy whelped successfully, and her pups all found beautiful, loving homes, but she, sadly, remained behind. No interest or potential adoption prospects came her way. Despite being the perfect darling dog who'd survived the hardships of street life, and had overcome them, she couldn't find her happy ending... until now!

Kiara was selected to be at our Woodrock Pup Pop-Up unit at the Garden Shop in Parktown. An incredible opportunity where Woodrock brings along dogs up for adoption to the venue on Saturdays and Sundays – hopefully to find their new families.

### A MOMENT OF MAGIC

A moment of magic occurred, and Kiara's life changed forever. A lady and her sister came into the adoption cabin, and with no need to look at the dogs up for adoption, they informed us to simply choose the dogs that needed a home the most, and that would be the dog they most wanted to give a loving home to! We walked to the holding area and handpicked a three-legged young fellow named Paulie and, of course, Kiara. Our beautiful girl had finally found her forever home, and lovely Paulie had too!

We are now at the start of a new year and we really need help. Adoptions slowed down over the festive season, coupled with the rise in surrenders. This is in addition to the many, many dogs found on the roads from either fireworks or when people went on holiday and dogs were left alone all day and went in search of their families. Please help us help them, and we can continue to burn bright the flame of success in rescue! 🐾

**I**n the darkest hours of rescue, there'll always be a shining light – we just have to decide to open our eyes and see it!

I, Stella Meldau, write this from my heart in a quest to encourage my fellow team players, who experience the ups and downs in our unique world of rescue, to know that they're not alone, and it's up to us as rescuers to light small flames to make a bonfire of hope, keeping the rescue flare alive!

These moments of illumination are truly experienced when we conclude a successful rescue, rehabilitation and, ultimately, a rehoming. It's a communal victorious task which thrills the soul.

### EVERY LIFE COUNTS

The story of the starfish by Loren Eiseley, where a man questions a young boy's decision to help return swept starfish back into the sea, rings strongly in my mind. The moral of knowing that the young man is choosing to help an individual starfish, even when the beach is littered with them, shows that the nature of a rescuer takes EVERY life into account and considers EVERY life valid and worthy. The true nature of rescue creates a voice for the voiceless and lights one flame in the darkest of hours.

# Heat Stroke & Dehydration Can Kill!

By Dr Larry Kraitzick, Bruma Lake Veterinary Clinic



**I**t's hot out there – not only for humans, but for dogs as well! When you're looking for ways to beat the heat, please don't forget to look out for your furry friends too. Remember that dogs are unable to talk, and nor are they able to provide water or shade for themselves. It's our responsibility to care and look out for them.

All dogs should have free access to an abundance of clean fresh water at all times. There should be enough in their bowls to last at least 24 hours. All bowls should be emptied and refilled at least once a day to ensure sufficient clean water is available at all times. Water dishes should be kept in the shade to keep water cool and prevent it from drying up.

If you have a dog kennel, it should be placed in the shade as the sun can turn the inside of a kennel into a baking oven. It's terribly unpleasant and can be extremely dangerous for a dog to lie in a boiling hot kennel. In hot weather, it's extremely important to only exercise dogs early in the morning and late in the afternoon when it's cooler. Always bring drinking water and a dish with you when taking

your dog out for a walk or for exercise. I also advise that you take the water in a spray bottle so that you can spray your fur friend if necessary.

## STAYING SAFE

When taking your dogs to the beach, it's essential to offer them fresh water at regular intervals to prevent them drinking sea water when they're thirsty.

It's also vital to test the temperature of the sidewalk, road surface or beach sand with your palm before allowing your dog to walk on these surfaces on a hot day. Please avoid taking your pets in the car if you don't have air conditioning. Never leave them in the car, as they overheat in a very short time and this rapidly leads to death.

Very old or very young dogs, dogs who are ill or overweight, and those with short faces such as Bulldogs, Boxers, Boston Terriers and Pugs are particularly at risk for dehydration and/or heat stress.

Dogs with thick coats such as Chows and Huskies are more susceptible to heat stress if the ambient temperature rises to above 32 degrees Celsius, if they're exercised in the heat, or if they've been moved from cold to hot climates. Never shave these breeds (except for medical reasons), as their coat helps to insulate them from heat and cold and protects their skin from the environment.

In my years as a vet, I've seen heat stress, heat stroke, and dehydration in different breeds and dog types. Every single dog is susceptible, so please take care.

## WHY DRINKING SEA WATER IS DANGEROUS

Similar to when humans accidentally swallow some seawater while swimming or surfing in the ocean, salt water consumption in very small quantities is usually not harmful. However, drinking larger amounts of salt water can lead to a disruption in the fluid balance in your dog's body, and toxic amounts of salt can be fatal to your dog. This is also known as salt toxicity in dogs. When a dog ingests salt water, the excess salt draws water from the blood into the intestines, leading to diarrhoea, vomiting, and dehydration. Dogs with toxic levels of sodium in their systems have a mortality rate higher than 50 per cent, regardless of treatment.

When too much salt builds up in a dog's body, their cells release their water content to try and balance out the sodium disparity. This, in turn, causes a litany of serious health effects. It can cause seizures, a loss of brain cells, injury to the kidneys, and severe dehydration. If a dog with salt water poisoning isn't treated medically, the condition can easily lead to death.

If your dog ingests small amounts of salty ocean water, it



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## How to protect your pets in hot weather

can result in diarrhoea, but if you know your dog's been drinking any amount of salt water at the beach, monitor him closely in the hours and days following. In addition to diarrhoea, symptoms of salt water poisoning to keep an eye out for in your dog are vomiting, seizures, muscle weakness, and tremors.

If your dog displays any of the symptoms outlined above, taking your dog to the vet as soon as

possible means you have the greatest chance of restoring his electrolytes and water balance to normal levels.

A good strategy to prevent salt water poisoning of your dog is taking frequent breaks away from the water (around every 15 minutes) and regularly offering your dog fresh water to drink. Frequent hydration is key to ensuring your dog isn't tempted to drink sea water in the first place. 🐕



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# A BOND THAT WILL LAST FOREVER!

*Editorial supplied by Phoenix Animal Care and Treatment (PACT)*



**W**e are Toby and Todd, and we needed a home to call our own. We're two handsome, loving Africanis-type dogs, and we were then just over a year old.

As little pups we went to a few foster homes, and boy, was it nice to be surrounded by hoomans and other doggos. We also enjoyed playing with cats.

Then we were sent to what is known as a "kennel facility" – an enclosure to keep us safe since we didn't have a home. Even though we had each other, it still got pretty lonely, and we didn't have space to run around or people to give our love to, which made us quite sad. We were still too little to understand why we always had to return to our kennel.

The volunteers of PACT were the

only family we knew, but the love and affection they gave us at every kennel visit was the best, and we wished that we could have that love and attention every day.

We recently had an adoption day, and we dreaded going back to kennels and refused to get out of the vehicle. This made our family of volunteers cry, because of their helplessness. They eventually carried us both out and put us back in our kennel. They were doing the best they could to find us a home.

## **OUR LUCKY DAY EVENTUALLY ARRIVED**

Toby and Todd were part of a litter who were rescued in November 2018, together with their mom, a beautiful Africanis-type dog. Momma and her litter all got homed, leaving little Toby and Todd behind. The brothers went from one foster home to the other

before being placed in kennels, but they stayed together all the time. Toby and Todd had been to many adoption events and been networked profusely, but little to no interest was shown.

They then developed kennel stress and had to be put into a special enclosure to prevent them from escaping. These boys are so close and share a unique bond, yet neither could find a home. This was heartbreaking for the PACT team and their volunteers. Toby and Todd finally hit the jackpot when a couple – who are avid supporters of animal welfare – were eager to adopt them both! They went to their new home full of excitement to both still be together and finally have a family of their own.

Ever since then, Toby and Todd have been flourishing, and their

# Turning a house into a home

“pawrents” adore and spoil them rotten. This past November, they turned two years old and had their very first “pawty”. From treats to gifts to outfits, their rescue is well and truly over. They’ve now turned a house into a home.

PACT thanks Mr and Mrs Rivaan and Nerrisa Ajodapersad for opening their home and hearts to

rescue brothers Toby and Todd. We’re so grateful for you and wish you all the best with many more blessed years together.

The Africanis breed is also known as the “Dog of Africa”. They’re smart, friendly, and loving dogs who enjoy being free and running. Another trait of the breed is that they rarely get sick or need medical attention. 🐕



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# Making the Move to the Netherlands

By Anysha Roberts (PETport)



got married in November 2019. We absolutely loved it and knew this was most certainly a place we could call home, and it helps to have friends and my cousin who lives in London.”

While planning the family’s move the dreadful lockdown/COVID-19 disaster hit, setting the relocation back by eight months due to borders being closed and work visas not being issued to embargoes on AVI travel (live animal transport). Francesca’s husband’s company had to change his start date twice due to all the setbacks, but fortunately they remained incredibly understanding.

They’ve been so wonderfully caring and patient with me, and I’ve created such a wonderful bond and friendship with these girls, so it never feels like work when we chat. I truly would be completely lost without their help.”

Nadine, one of PETport’s International Specialists, is currently working on getting Ares and Lupa to the Netherlands ASAP. Ares and Lupa are currently at BKC Pet Kennels, right next to PETport. Francesca says: “What an absolutely wonderful place. I was terrified of the thought of my fur children going to kennels, but Nadine arranged a site visit for us to put our hearts at ease. We were so delighted at how much the staff love all those pets booked into the kennels and genuinely care for them. The photographers on site post daily updates of everyone’s fur kids, which is super amazing.”

Francesca and family are coordinating both humans’ and

**W**e met PETport’s top fan, Francesca Pecorelli-Africa, last year and enjoyed our interactions on social media. Francesca is a beautiful, wonderfully spirited wife and dog mom to two beautiful fur babies named Ares and Lupa.

Francesca and her family were originally supposed to move to Glasgow, and then... BREXIT! It was too volatile, so her husband was given a choice of moving to the Netherlands to conduct work. “We decided to take a holiday to the Netherlands just before we

## CHOOSING PETPORT

Francesca decided on PETport as her family’s pet relocation specialist after extensive research, reviews and phone calls, not to mention plenty of chats on Facebook. “PETport stood out to me the most, not just because of the fantastic and positive reviews, but from the very first call I made. I asked a million and one questions and felt like I’d known my agents forever. I want to say on a personal note that the ladies at PETport are such gems – Lohandri, Nadine and Anysha have been nothing but amazing!

## About PETport

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



fur kids' relocation to leave South Africa at the end of February, but they've been unfortunately set back again with the Netherlands temporary flight ban.

Francesca says, "If I could recommend anything, I would say – whatever you do, DON'T EVER GIVE UP. Trust your agent, and remember, this too shall pass. We've been stuck for almost nine months now and we're so close to completing this first chapter to start the next one. It's been painful and difficult being separated from our babies for six weeks, but we get to visit every Saturday until we leave and always remind ourselves that we'll be together again soon."

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# Labrador (-ology)



*Emily, photographed by Sune Scenes Photography*

## The Labrador Retriever was bred to be both a friendly companion and a useful working dog breed

**L**abradors have always been known as the perfect family dog. They're friendly and intelligent and have lots of happy energy. Labs are loving, people-oriented dogs who live to serve their families.

### HISTORY

This beautiful breed of dog originated on the island of Newfoundland, off the north-eastern Atlantic coast of Canada. Originally called the St. John's dog, after the capital city of Newfoundland, they were bred to help the local fishermen – hauling nets, fetching ropes, and retrieving fish that had escaped the nets – as well as to be a family dog.

These days, the Labrador's sweet nature makes them an excellent therapy dog, visiting homes for the elderly, schools and hospitals, and their intelligence makes them an ideal assistance dog for those with disabilities. They also excel as search-and-rescue dogs and do well in obedience and agility competitions.



### PERSONALITY

The Labrador has the reputation of being one of the most sweet-natured breeds, and it's well deserved. They're outgoing, eager to please, and friendly with both people and other animals.

Labs need plenty of exercise and attention. These dogs love food and can become overweight quickly if overfed and given too many treats. Labs, as a working breed, have high energy, so exercise and training are important, because a bored Labrador can vent this energy in destructive ways such as digging, barking and chewing.

### HEALTH

Labrador Retrievers are generally healthy, but like all breeds, they're prone to certain health conditions. Not all Labs will get any or all of these diseases, but it's important to be aware of them if you're considering this breed.

Hip Dysplasia is a heritable condition in which the thighbone doesn't fit snugly into the hip joint. Some dogs show pain and lameness on one or both rear legs, but you may not notice any signs of discomfort in a dog with hip dysplasia. As the dog ages, arthritis can develop.

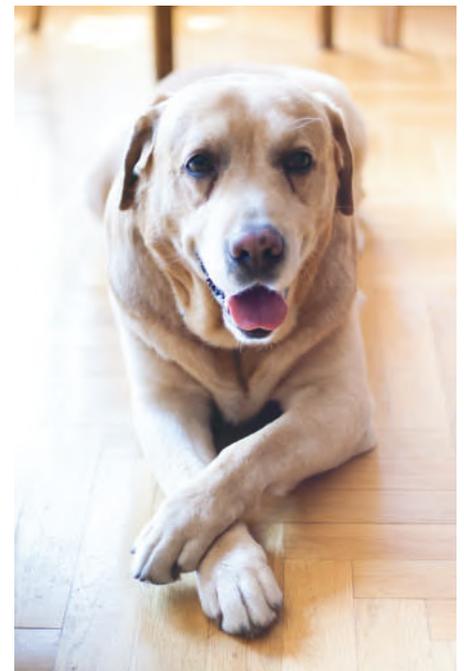
Labradors can also suffer from Elbow Dysplasia, Osteochondritis Dissecans (OCD), Cataracts, Epilepsy and Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus, commonly

referred to as bloat. This is a life-threatening condition that affects large, deep-chested dogs like Labs, especially if they're fed one large meal a day, eat rapidly, or drink large amounts of water or exercise vigorously after eating.

### LIVING WITH A LABRADOR

The affectionate and loyal Labrador needs to be around their family and is definitely not a backyard dog. Labradors need to sleep inside, protecting their family. This dog is easy to groom, but they do shed. They come in three colours – chocolate, black, and yellow.

The beautiful Labrador Retriever loves children (always teach your children how to treat dogs respectfully), and they usually get along well with other animals. 



## JUST JOEL

BY JANE HOAR

My name is Jane, and I'm part of a small, dedicated team of people that form Labrador Rescue South Africa.

I have seven rescue Labradors of my own, mostly over the age of nine, as I'm a total sucker for the golden oldies. They're so precious, so I've become the retirement home for Lab Rescue. I was lucky enough to get Joel as a puppy, though, and we've certainly had our share of trauma with him during his three years. He had Parvo as a pup, contracted after his second vaccination, and I nearly lost him. His survival was due mostly to the amazing care given by our vet, who monitored and nurtured him through this most awful illness. He attended puppy socialisation, puppy 2 and obedience lessons. He approached these activities with the typical enthusiasm of a Labrador and enjoyed himself immensely, much to the amusement of his instructors. He somehow holds a bronze Canine Good Citizen Award!

He's also appeared in a few adverts, probably the best known being a DStv

ad, where he naturally assumed that he was the star of the show and entertained everyone.

One day I noticed that he couldn't catch a ball or eat a biscuit. One side of his head became extremely swollen and he was in severe pain. After x-rays and a CT scan, it looked like a tiny sliver of wood had somehow managed to become lodged behind his eye and caused a massive infection. He had to have an incision in his head to drain the abscess, plus medication to clear the infection. It was such a bizarre thing to happen, but only Joel!

Joel thinks that everyone, and I mean everyone who comes to the house, is there specifically to throw a ball for him. When anyone arrives, he rushes around the garden looking for a ball to drop at their feet. If they don't react, he picks it up and drops it again and again and again. He has the most beautiful brown eyes which he uses to stare at you and melt your heart, so you throw his ball "just one more time". His face lights up when the gardener arrives each week,

as this is his best buddy. He spends all day with him and is exhausted in the evening after his busy day. His sleeping positions defy gravity and make me wonder if he's actually made of rubber. Legs stick out in all directions or up the wall, and his head can end up anywhere. Everyone loves Joel – he's an absolute clown and makes me laugh every day. Such is life with a Labrador; the never-ending entertainment and joy. I couldn't imagine life without him.



## SURI'S SPECIAL STORY

BY VIVIANA EGGERS

When you lose a fur-baby, regardless of how long you've had them, it's like losing a piece of your heart. It's a struggle that no one wants to



experience. My husband and I have always been in a household with four dogs, until one of our fur babies earned their heavenly wings at an early age. We felt a lot of heartache and guilt, and we knew the only way to make this better was to adopt a fur-baby in need of a home. Why not rescue a dog who deserves another chance at life? Two months later, while scrolling through Facebook, I came across a young black Labrador named Suri who was in need of a special home as she only had three legs. I sent the photo to my husband and it was the easiest decision we've ever made – we WANTED her!

We knew we could give this special dog the home she deserves and needs – a home full of love and other fur-baby friends. We applied to adopt her at

Labrador Rescue SA, and before the week was out, she was ours and in her new home with her brother and sisters.

It was the best decision we've ever made! Suri is so full of energy and brings so much life and love into our home. No matter who she meets, she brings a smile to anyone's face with her clumsy mannerism and her playful ways. She's mended our hearts and has taught us so much in the short time we've had her. Suri's message to anyone who's reading this: it doesn't matter how tough life can be, whether you have physical or emotional limitations or not, there'll always be someone or something to help pick you up and lift your spirit. We all deserve a second chance to be who we're meant to be and to fill our purpose in this world.

## TOMMY'S TALE

BY TARIQ AND ZIA LABHADUR

After seeing Tommy on Lab Rescue's Facebook page, we went to meet him. He was very sweet but reserved. After shaking paws, we decided that he belongs with us.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, we brought Tommy home to be with his new family, and since then we haven't been able to eat anything without those pleading Lab eyes staring at our food. He and Skyler, a German Shepherd-cross-Husky that we rescued in December 2019, played almost immediately.

The sweet and reserved Tommy slowly disappeared – he now demands pets, snacks, cuddles and infinite belly rubs by using the “paw of demand”. He lives up to his Lab reputation by eating weird things and being very gentle and goofy at the same time.

Mud and puddles activate Tommy's playful pouncing puppy mode. We didn't realise this at first, but Crazy Tom

was activated when he got pushed into a puddle by Skyler. Life is great in Tommy's world until Skyler catches a bird. Tommy, not being the greatest hunter, gets extremely upset and we have to console him while Skyler enjoys her meal. He's a huge Mama's boy and loves being babied until it's time to play with his “other human” and Skyler.

Tommy's a hiking kinda guy who loves the feel of the wind in his face during car rides. He's very protective of his family and will go from gentle giant to

brutish beast if he feels that someone is a threat to us. Tommy's also a thief! He recently stole our tennis ball and refuses to return it. We're really grateful for the type of guy that Tommy is, and it feels like he's always been with us. We're looking forward to many happy, healthy and crazy years with him.



## OUR SNOWY AND BUDDY

BY KAREN HEYDENRYCH

Last year, during one of the many levels of lockdown, my son Matthew (11) and I adopted a beautiful two-year-old Labrador-Shar-pei cross in June. We'd lost our 16-year-old Scruffy girl, a mixed breed, in March, so our 14-year-old Toffee boy needed a companion. Little did we know that this Lab-Shei cross named Breez would make such an impact on our lives. On introduction, Toffee got

on well with her, and of course, Matthew and I both fell in love. She was the sweetest girl.

We brought her home and watched her personality shine. We discovered very quickly that she was very smart and confident. She learned how to sit, give paw, stand up, lie down, roll over and even bark for treats! (Midfeeds in Midrand can attest to her clever trick.)

Over the next few months, her hair grew back into a soft, sleek coat, making her look even more beautiful. She has the cutest curly tail, smaller folded ears typical of a Shar-pei, and she even has black markings on her tongue. She blossomed in her forever home and her coat

changed to a gorgeous white, which is why we changed her name from Breez to Snowy. She loves her new name.

Snowy got on well with Toffee, but she needed a play buddy. Toffee is too old to run and play, and that's why we decided to adopt another dog. Ashli from Lab Rescue told me that she had the perfect match for Snowy, so we went out to meet eight-month-old Lab-cross Buddy. He was a big boy at that age and will still grow (perhaps he has Great Dane in him!). He was timid and nervous, but I could see that the two pups got on. Buddy would need lots of love and reassurance, and we could give that to him for sure!

Buddy settled in very quickly, and Snowy has been so happy with her new friend. They're always together, and they play up a storm. Snowy definitely got her play-Buddy, and we got to adopt two amazing dogs that are now a part of our family. Thank you, Labrador Rescue!



## ADOPTING CLYDE AND ASTRO

BY NOLLEN & ANNAH KAWADZA

We've always loved Labradors and were planning to have one by buying from reputable breeders. With the lockdown saga, the need for a dog as an addition to our family became even more pronounced. After being scammed and losing R3,000, we came across the Labrador Rescue website and took interest in reading about animal shelters and rescue organisations. It was heartbreaking to learn of dogs being abandoned and stray animals being rescued by various organisations. We browsed through and met "Astro" on the website – what interested us was that he was still about a year old. We made contact, and upon our visit to the shelter, we also fell in love with Clyde, and he fell in love with us. We had to adopt both Astro and Clyde.

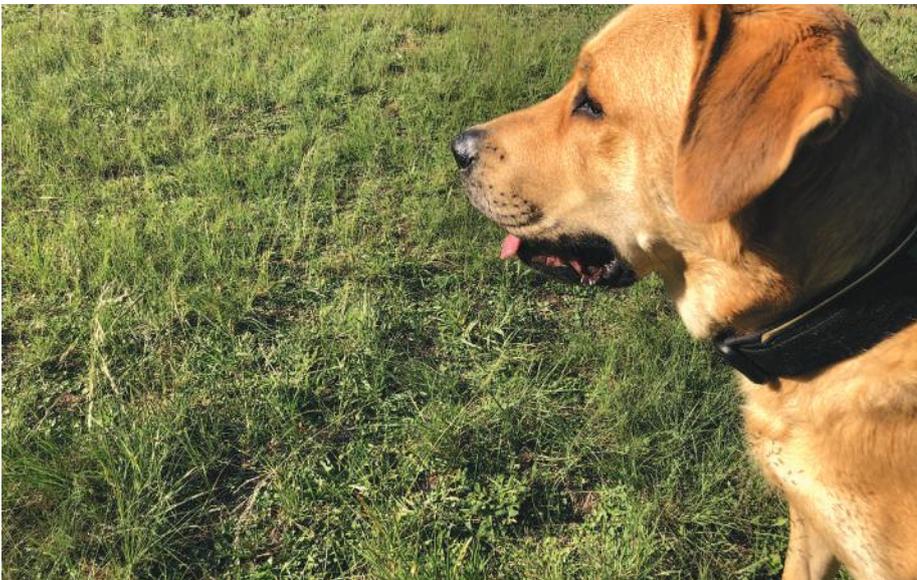
Adopting Clyde and Astro has been a blessing to our family, but as with most rescue dogs, they took a while to settle. Astro wouldn't sit or come to anyone at first. We understood, because humans had let him down before and we knew we had to be patient. The support from Marli (Lab Rescue) was amazing, as we were first-time dog owners and had a range of questions. The best thing was that they were already house-trained (so we didn't have to go through potty training), could sit, and lie down.

Rescuing Astro and Clyde was the best decision we've ever made for our family. They not only provide companionship but have taught us so much about love, patience and adapting to a changing world. We learned not to sweat the small stuff and that no matter what, always wag your tail and bark less!



## THE DOG WHO SAVED ME

BY DIANE LOGIE



I had been looking for a Labrador to help with my anxiety and go everywhere with me, so I contacted Labrador Rescue. They said that they had the perfect dog for me - Leo was apparently well trained and a good therapy dog.

I went with a friend to meet him at his previous home and we found a skinny sweet boy who was clearly in need of love. We got him in the car, took him to my vet for his injections, and as soon as we got out the car, Leo looked up to me as if to

say that I was his and he was mine.

As with all rescues, it took Leo a while to decompress and find his footing. He had serious behaviour issues, and with the help of an amazing behaviourist, we were able to get him settled, although he never really liked my oldest dog. That being said, when my old guy died, Leo pined for him so badly that I had to get a friend for him!

Leo was 18 months when he came into the family and he recently turned five. He is now such a loving, goofy lab who just loves walks at his favourite walking spot where he can run in an open field and swim. Leo is still wary of humans, but he's come to work with me, gone to restaurants with me and basically become my shadow. When I'm not doing okay, Leo watches me and won't leave me. He will rest his head on me and sometimes crawl onto me like a lap dog if he feels I need a bit more love.

Leo may not be perfect, but he's definitely my perfect Labrador. Thank you, Lab Rescue, for entrusting me with this boy.

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Spencers natural, premium, non-toxic products are formulated by veterinarians, manufactured in a laboratory, have been endorsed with ISO standards, and are used worldwide. All the products have scientific dossiers to back up the excellent efficacy and lack of side effects of the products. Spencers Natural Anti-Insect Dog and Cat Collars are specially formulated for dogs and cats. Totally non-toxic, they provide a natural way of repelling ticks, fleas, mosquitoes, flies, lice, and mites. The collar is robust and made from high-grade rubber that's impregnated with the essential oils of Neem, Lavender and Geraniol, which are extracted through top-quality processes. The concentration of the oils in the collars has been adapted to the pH of the animal. The ergonomic buckle means that the collar comes loose if caught in order to prevent choking. Neem oil comes from a tree in India and has been used for centuries for a variety of ailments. It's well known to repel insects, as it interrupts their life cycle. Neem also improves general skin health and has anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and antiseptic properties. The collars also contain Geraniol and Lavender oils, which release a fantastic smell, and it's this aroma that forms a barrier preventing insects from getting near the pet. Lavender also has a calming effect. The Spencers range of products are available from selected pet stores and online pet shops including Takealot. Visit [www.spencersnpp.co.za](http://www.spencersnpp.co.za) for more information.

**WIN!** One lucky reader will win a Spencers hamper containing a Spencers Natural Anti-Insect Dog collar, a Stain and Odour Remover and Powder Shampoo. Simply email [marketing@caninezonesa.co.za](mailto:marketing@caninezonesa.co.za) with SPENCERS in the subject line, along with your full name and contact details.



# Looking for Love

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

## LABRADOR RESCUE (South Africa)



**BELLA** is a beautiful three-year-old girl who had a rough start to life, to say the least. She really deserves a better life and a family who'll love her unconditionally and understand her. She's the sweetest girl with a lot of love to give.



**RILEY** is six-year-old handsome boy who loves attention and playing but can also just lie sweetly by your feet content with the company. He's a true Labrador through and through if given the chance. He'd make a great companion to any family.



**JEFFREY** is two years old and a happy, loveable guy. Precious Jeff was found as a stray and unclaimed and is in need of a wonderful family where he'll only know love and fun.



**JESSE** is two years old and has the most beautiful, soulful eyes. Rescued from a township, pregnant and terrified, Jesse has come a long way and deserves nothing but the best going forward. She needs a family who'll treat her like a princess and give her so much love and attention.

## ANIMAL ANTI-CRUELTY LEAGUE (Cape Town)



**ROOKI** is a very handsome and happy, two-year-old Wirehaired Terrier cross. This boy needs a safe home with a family who'll love and cherish him. He's sociable with other dogs, but cats unknown. Can you find space in your home for beautiful Rooki?



**MIDNIGHT** is a two-year-old Great Dane cross with the most beautiful, soulful eyes and glossy coat. This beautiful boy is good with other dogs and would make the perfect addition to your family.

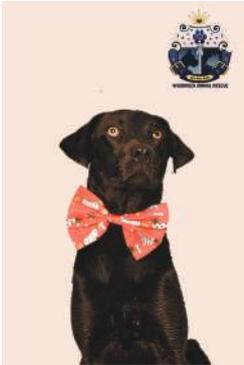


**ECHO** is a gorgeous female Husky with beautiful eyes and a lovely nature. She's sociable with other dogs, but cats unknown. Echo would fit in perfectly with a family who understands this wonderful breed and who'll love her for the rest of her life.



**RAVEN** is an absolute showstopper with his unusual coat. He's a larger cross-breed dog and is two years of age. He gets along well with other dogs. If you want a dog who'll be devoted to you and your family, look no further.

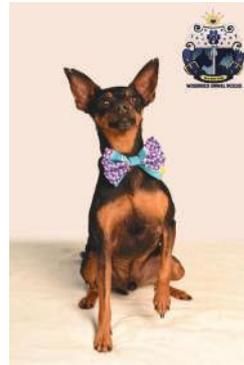
## WOODROCK ANIMAL RESCUE (Johannesburg)



**ZIMBA** is a totally adorable, eighteen-month-old boy. He's super friendly and loving and is great with other dogs – and even cats! This really playful boy will bring so much joy into your family.



**TESSA** looks like a Disney dog. She's a four-year-old Dachshund mix who simply adores being taken for a walk. She's incredibly friendly and always smiling. This jolly gal would make your house a home.



**TUI** is a happy little two-year-old Miniature Pinscher. He's always happy and joyful and loves humans. All he needs now is a forever home where a family will adore him for the rest of his life.



**CALEB** is a one-year-old friendly boy with a smile you won't be able to resist. This mixed-breed guy is incredibly affectionate even though he can be a bit shy when first meeting people. He loves older children, so he'd make a great family member.

## WHERE TO FIND THEM...

### LABRADOR RESCUE (SOUTH AFRICA)

#### **BELLA, RILEY, JEFFREY & JESSE**

Labrador Rescue South Africa (LRSA) is a registered NPC and PBO that operates on a nationwide basis dealing with the rescue and rehoming of Labrador Retrievers. Although LRSA is a breed-specific rescue, we rehome many Labrador cross breeds, as well as their other breed family companions. LRSA acts as the facilitator between people looking to rehome their Labradors and people wanting to offer a home to a Labrador. To donate, foster or adopt, email us on [info@labrescue.org.za](mailto:info@labrescue.org.za) or [ashli@labrescue.org.za](mailto:ashli@labrescue.org.za). Visit our website on [www.labrescue.org.za](http://www.labrescue.org.za)

### ANIMAL ANTI-CRUELTY LEAGUE (CAPE TOWN)

#### **ECHO, MIDNIGHT, RAVEN, & ROOKI**

Our aim is to prevent and eliminate all cruelty to all animals, whether arising from ignorance, neglect or deliberate cruelty, and to alleviate suffering by such cruelty. The Animal Anti-Cruelty League has been protecting and caring for animals since 1956. It's the second biggest independent animal welfare organisation in South Africa and relies entirely upon the generosity and goodwill of the animal-loving public for financial support. To adopt one of our lovely dogs, email us on [adoptb@aacl.co.za](mailto:adoptb@aacl.co.za) or visit our website on [www.aacl.co.za](http://www.aacl.co.za) to see all the dogs available for adoption, countrywide. Dog adoption fee of R850 includes first vaccination, worm and flea treatment, compulsory sterilisation, microchip and ID tag.

### WOODROCK ANIMAL RESCUE (JOHANNESBURG)

#### **ZIMBA, TESSA, TUI & CALEB**

Woodrock Animal Rescue is a leading non-profit, pro-life, rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming organisation in South Africa. It was founded in 1992 by Nicholas and Stella (Estelle) Meldau, whose focus, passion and drive made their animal rescue vision become a reality. Woodrock Animal Rescue is based on 8.5 hectares in the beautiful Hennops River Valley, south-west of Pretoria, and it provides assistance to homeless, abused, neglected, stray, injured, ill, geriatric and unwanted animals that would otherwise have miserable lives and premature deaths – animals who have no voice of their own! To adopt, donate, volunteer or foster, email [adoptions@woodrockanimalrescue.co.za](mailto:adoptions@woodrockanimalrescue.co.za) or call 082 925 3133 or 076 155 4439. Visit our website on [www.woodrockanimalrescue.co.za](http://www.woodrockanimalrescue.co.za)



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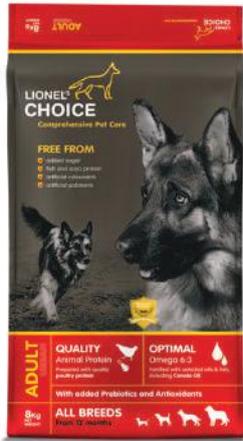
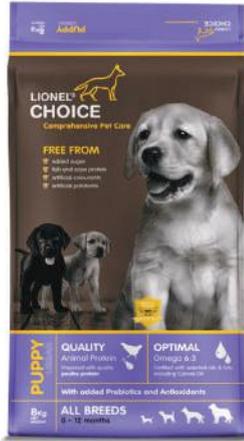
# Protect. Love

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Natural antioxidants to support the immune system



### Healthy gut

**Butyrate and Chicory (prebiotic)**  
Supports gut health and digestive function



### Strong dental

**Calcium and phosphorus**  
The ideal mineral ratio helps support healthy teeth



### Shiny skin and coat

**Ideal Omega 6:3 ratio**  
Balanced fatty acids to support skin and coat health



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### Developed for all breeds



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