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Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers 

*Cooper, adopted from
Pug Rescue South
Africa and adored by
Renate Albrecht
Photography by
Philson Photography.*



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It's December already, and I can't believe that twelve months have passed since our last December issue, as this very odd year has flown by so quickly! Due to the pandemic and lockdown, it feels like we lost a full five months and more. Given the fact that so many businesses and magazines have closed down, I'm very grateful that we've survived and have, in fact, done even better this year. I've always worked from home offices with staff working remotely, and without meetings to attend every week, it's saved me so much time to get more work done. I'm so impressed by the number of companies who've allowed staff to continue to work from home, and I believe it should be the way of the future. Unfortunately, there are still those companies who dislike the concept for some reason. I wouldn't exactly describe myself as an introvert, but neither am I a social butterfly, so I've enjoyed isolating and spending more time with my close family and, of course, my fur kids. Being asthmatic, I've ordered online and made use of Zoom for all my meetings, and it's worked for me. I think during this very strange pandemic time, people are going to have to take responsibility for their own health and that of people they care about. There are such simple ways in which to break the chain of this dreadful lurgy and put it behind us. Those who don't follow these rules are putting themselves and

others at risk, which is extremely selfish.

It might be a very different festive season this year, but our precious dogs haven't known about the pandemic, and for them, life has gone on. They've probably enjoyed the extra time everyone has spent at home! During this pandemic, shelters have really struggled due to the fact that they haven't been able to do much fundraising, added to the fact that the economy's on a slowdown. We need to really help them where we can, especially over the festive season when shelters take in so many abandoned dogs.

This festive season and into 2021, let's take a breath and meditate on what's really important to us. Let's be grateful for what we all do have, and let's make a promise to find the positive in everything. When you wake up in the morning, before the rat race begins, think about five things you're most grateful for and say thank you! Make a resolution for 2021 to do more to save our planet and our beautiful animals who need our help desperately. Let's all do our own little bit, and when put together, what a huge difference it will make for our future.

As this is our last issue for 2020, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all our wonderful sponsors who continue to support us – Complete Pet, Jock Dog Food, Lionel's Choice, Montego Pet Nutrition, PETport, Pro-Pet, and Simparica. All of these companies do so much for dogs and deserve our support. A huge thank you to all our other advertisers and, of course, to everyone who helps put each and every issue together – Ian, Patti, Glyn, Aidan, Celia, Julie, Dr Larry, Tracy, Estelle, and Chelsea – thank you for your skills and passion for dogs.

Wishing all our wonderful readers a safe and peaceful festive season and a new year filled with nothing but good health, happiness, prosperity and blessings. Give your fur kids a cuddle from me!

Sharon

Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers

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PRINTED BY

D&S PRESS

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CIRCULATION

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



Published by E-Biz Solutions cc
Telephone – 011 475 1536

Email – marketing@ebizsolutions.co.za

Website – www.caninezonesa.co.za

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UPFRONT

FIND YOUR NEW FAMILY MEMBER AT THE WOODROCK PUP POP-UP ADOPTION CENTRE



Woodrock Animal Rescue are always up for a challenge – if it's for the benefit of their animals – so when they received a proposal from The Garden Shop in Parktown North to open a Pop-Up Adoption centre, they were obviously elated. Here was a unique opportunity to get their dogs showcased for adoption at an amazing location.

Marltons, their headline sponsor, didn't hesitate for a second when approached to step in and help financially to set up the adoption centre and to partner in this ongoing, incredible venture. The Garden Shop, The Garden Guru, Lionel's Choice and Easi Grass also came on board to make the dream a reality.

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

Why a pop-up adoption centre? To be more accessible and practical for showcasing dogs looking for their new families.

Estelle Meldau from Woodrock Animal Rescue says, "Let's look to the future. This world has changed forever.

COVID-19 has taught us so many lessons. As humans, we do best with companions. Knowing what it feels like to endure the agony of being in lockdown affords humans a peek into the world of a shelter dog. Dogs that have spent many years

at a shelter, homeless and without a family to love. Woodrock Animal Rescue was severely affected by COVID-19 due to no visitors, no public gatherings and no fundraising."

She continues: "Faced with challenges like never before, we pondered on how we could make a difference. How were we to raise funds? It was a seriously scary time. But with the Woodrock attitude of 'We can, we must, and we will!', we continued to invite the public to the farm 'By Appointment'. Keeping up with strict COVID-19 rules, we were very chuffed with the outcome, as we did incredible numbers over the lockdown period."

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE LOVE OF ANIMALS

"Working in close tandem with our headline sponsor, Marltons, and The Garden Shop made the project an easy one. Dog food brand Lionel's Choice then also came on board and runs a stand at the venue where you can purchase your Lionel's Choice dog and

cat food via SnapScan. Any profit made on the wholesale amount will be credited to Woodrock's account, which can then be converted into bulk dog food or veterinary supplies to the equivalent amount, whichever is preferred. In addition, via the SnapScan, Lionel's Choice will give the public the option of donating a Rand value or an equivalent bag of food to Woodrock Animal Rescue."

Lionel's Choice Care Boxes, containing a 2.5 kg bag of food, gravies, and dewormer, will be made available, free of charge, to people adopting a dog. Furthermore, in acknowledgement of Lionel's Choice's commitment to this wonderful adoption centre, they'll donate 100 kilograms of dog food to Woodrock, over and above the fundraising options mentioned above, on a monthly basis.

FINDING FOREVER HOMES

The location of the Woodrock Pup Pop-Up adoption centre is perfect, and while they're there, families can also visit the Soapy Smooches and Swirl Freezo stores, making it a fun day out for the whole family.

When you meet your new prospective family member, you'll fill out an adoption form and the Woodrock Animal Rescue adoption process will commence. Adoption fees will include vaccinations and sterilisation.

The Woodrock Pup Pop-Up cabin is located at The Garden Shop, 167 Jan Smuts Ave, Parktown, and will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. For more information, email adoptions@woodrockanimalrescue.co.za, or call 082 925 3133 or 012 943 3695.

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THE ULTIMATE APP FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PET PARENTS – TAME PET APP



If your pet is your best friend, you probably want to do everything you can to ensure that they're safe, healthy and happy. From staying on top of their vaccinations and having their medical history on hand to keeping abreast of food and health trends, being able to shop online and have a video consultation with a vet, we know you want to manage your furry family's well-being as well as you manage your human family.

These reasons and more are why two South African entrepreneurs, Kyne Lupini and Shannon Sweetman, launched TAME, a revolutionary pet management system, easily accessed via a lifestyle-focused app. TAME is available on Android and IOS. Visit their website on www.tame.org.za for more information.

While lockdown may have been a challenging time to start a new business, it was exactly because of lockdown that the idea originated. Both small business owners in the pet industry (Kyne runs

Wolf & Women, an online store specialising in high-quality, natural treats and grooming products, and Shannon is a pet photographer, author and owner of Dog Meets Girl!), they noticed a huge growth in the industry as people were stuck at home with their pets and were spending more money on them. They identified the need for a system that would store and cover everything you need as a pet owner.

Beautifully designed (with all photographs taken by Shannon, of course), the app has a very different feel to any other app and is rich in offerings:

My Pet – Here you are able to capture everything about your pet, from their name and birthday to their microchip and insurance numbers. You can request pet insurance quotes, add your vet and grooming parlour details, and update all medical records, including medication and vaccination dates. The best part about all of this – besides eliminating the need for paperwork and filing and having everything on hand in one place – is that you can share your pet profile at any time.

Services – The list of vetted services – whether you're home or away on holiday with your animals, thanks to geotagging – includes vets, groomers, daycare services, pet sitters, dog walkers and behaviourists.

Shop – Kyne and Shannon are passionate about supporting local and bringing the entrepreneur to the pet owner. "The amount of quality artisanal brands we have in South Africa is positively astounding, and the world needs to see

more of them," says Shannon. You can shop for all your pets' needs via TAME'S selected shopping partners. In addition to the above services that are all free, users have the option of upgrading to premium (R59.99 per month), which opens up another whole offering:

Adventure – Here you can search pet-friendly restaurants, accommodation, and events according to your location.

Advice – A really useful option is the ability to seek advice across categories including medical, grooming, nutrition and training, or talk to a pet professional during working hours. Drawing on experts in the industry, interesting topics are covered each month with the option of videos and downloadable e-books, making this an exceptional library of information.

Find Me a Pet – Premium users can also find their new pet here – whether you're looking for a dog, cat, horse, bunny or parrot. Simply type in what pet and breed you're looking for and it will give you information about the breed and connect you to breed-specific shelters.

Talk – Inspired again by the challenges faced with consultations during lockdown, the Talk functionality allows the user to contact a vet or behaviourist with their concern, share their TAME pet profile and have a "live" appointment via a video call. Alternatively, you can share photos for the consultation. The consultation is included in the premium package, so there's no extra fee.



Your Photos



PADDINGTON & COCO – Paddington (left) loves mud; the only thing he loves more than mud is eating his sibling cat's toffees. Coco was left at the vet at birth. She adores humans and her two cat siblings, Frankie and Lilly. You can follow their adventures on Instagram @paddington_and_co – **CANDICE GELDENHUYS**



LEO our Labrador having fun on a walk. – **DIANE LOGIE**



ZACK was adopted by us from Animal Ambulance a couple of years ago after he was found abandoned on a highway. He's an active boy and absolutely loves it when my friend's dogs come over to play. – **CLAIRE MACINTOSH**

ATARI & SEGA

are nine years old. These two souls have been tangible sunshine in our lives for almost a decade. They've seen many moves, a marriage, two children, a Heinz Ketchup Superbowl advert, IVDD paralysis, surgeries, and so much more. Unconditional love pours out of every inch. We count ourselves lucky to have had them around providing so many years of laughter, comfort and companionship.

– **LAUREN FOOTMAN**



ROLO is our love bug Dachshund, seen running across an open field, which was a new discovery for him – first time running without a leash. Our nickname for him after this photo is "Captain America".

– **PETRO AND MARK WATTS**



LUNA is our nine-month-old Blue American Pit Bull. She's the most patient, energetic, loveable, gentle, loving dog you'll ever lay eyes on. She melts hearts wherever she goes. – **STEFNIE PUTTER**

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



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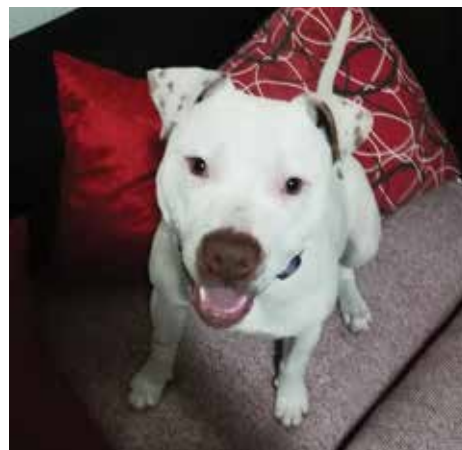
SAARTJIE is the most energetic, loveable, kindest doggie you'll ever meet. – **SIMONE SAUER**



DUGALD was rescued by Husky Heaven Rescue in March 2019 after he was left abandoned in a house in Pretoria. He came to us timid, scared and thin, but he's since blossomed into the most gorgeous, loving, crazy, funny boy – despite his terrible start to life! – **JENNY PIKE**
Photo credit: Pet Portrait Photography



HARLEY is a cross between a Great Dane and a Boerboel. He's eight years old and super chilled. He loves nothing more than to spend the day sleeping on his couch after spending lots of time digging for moles on his daily walk on the greenbelt. He has two sisters and two brothers who are all rescues (my favourite breed!). – **MARLENE HOFMEYR**



ROCKY is our much-loved eight-month-old Pit Bull boy. – **BIANCA WOLMARANS**



LEA was adopted by us in 2014 after she was found very scared and malnourished on the N2 in the Western Cape. When they found her, she was already approximately two years old, and when we brought her home, it was a huge adjustment for both of us. At night she had nightmares and I'd wake up to her screaming. I'd hold her in my arms until she calmed down. Everything was new to her! She loves sleeping under the blankets, even in the summer. I love her to bits. – **MARISKA ENGELBRECHT**



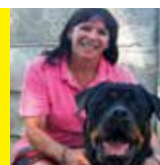
MAXIMUS is our Scottish Terrier who lives with our Jack Russell cross named Chuckles. Living their best lives! – **JESSICA RAMLUKAN**

Help!

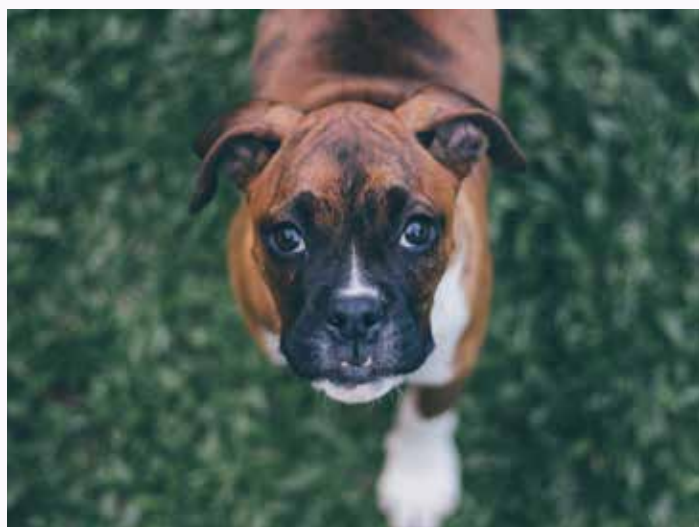


GOT A QUESTION?

E-mail us at
editorial@caninezonesa.co.za
and we will forward your mail to our
behaviourists Julie Bezuidenhout
and Celia Forsyth to answer



MY DOG IS TRYING TO GET OVER THE WALL



Our boxer, Duke, is six years old. We recently moved and Duke has decided he hates the dog next door. We need

neighbours to keep their dog inside, so what can we do? Our two little Jack Russells have now also started to bark

to monitor when we allow Duke outside as he barks frantically at the Labrador next door and leaps at the wall, almost clearing it, which is also scaring the neighbours. We tried the "balloon-to-scare-him" trick, but he ended up eating the balloon, which made us dash to the vet! We can't expect the

with Duke at the wall.

– **MONICA WILSON**

CELIA SAYS – This situation does sound scary. Have you done basic obedience with your dog? If so, then whenever you're home, recall your dog when he shows interest in the dog next door and get him busy with something else that's fun and rewarding. Here we're conditioning a different behaviour so that you have better control over your dog. A behaviourist will be helpful here to take you through the more technical aspects of this type of training. This is the training aspect of your situation. The other part is ensuring your dog doesn't manage to get over the wall. You can purchase a roll bar fence topper that prevents any traction, causing the dog to lose grip. I hope these tips help.

MY DOGS ARE SCARED OF THE SEA

We have two Scottish Terrier dogs who are four and five years old – a boy and a girl. We recently moved down to Amanzimtoti thinking the dogs would love spending time on the beach.

*Unfortunately, they're both terrified of going anywhere near the water, so we end up carrying them. We have to put them on a long, retractable leash, as they also tend to run away from us on the sand and get pushy with other dogs. What do you advise? – **TRISHA VILJOEN***

JULIE SAYS – The loud crashing ocean is terrifying for pets who've never been exposed to it. I suggest gently sensitising them to the beach and ocean. Don't use a retractable leash at this stage, because if a dog is afforded an opportunity to run from something he's fearful of, that's what he'll do.

I suggest that at this point you keep



them on shorter leads, close to your side, and well away from the ocean and beach. Provide yummy treats on these excursions (providing them with visual access to the beach/ocean). Once the dogs are relaxed and calm, go a little

closer to the beach and ocean. This process should continue gradually, getting them closer to the beach/ocean. Please remember that this is a process and not an event and could take some time to accomplish.

MY DOG GOES CRAZY IN THE CAR

I have an 18-month-old Malinois who's insanely friendly, but when she's in the car, she barks at everyone near the vehicle and even at cars going past! Any advice on how to stop this?

– DIANE LOGIE

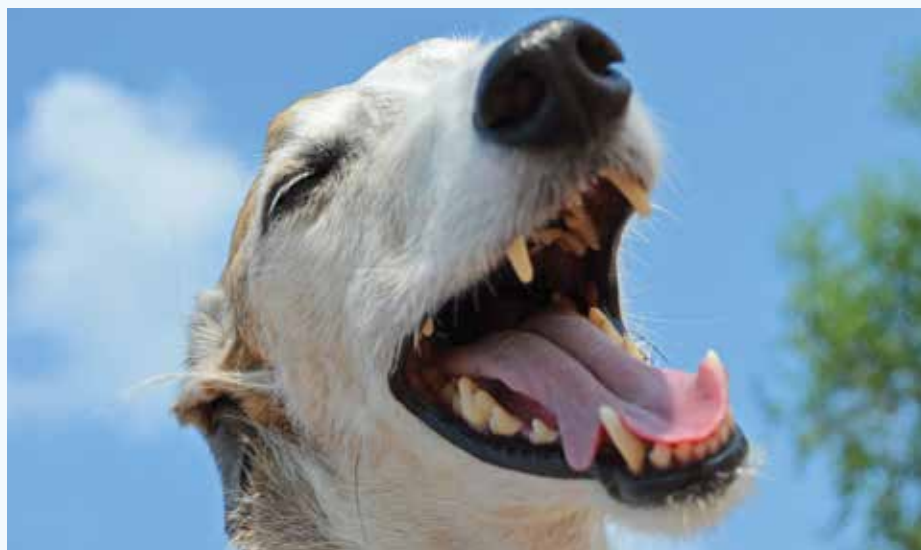
CELIA SAYS – It's insane, right? Such a friendly dog, and when it's in the car, it turns into a monster. It's a very common problem. Quite simply, your dog is trapped and is acting out. Some dogs react in a similar way when they're on leash because they're trapped. I suggest that you introduce your dog to a dog crate. When introducing her, ensure that she's trained to use this place as a calm and restful space. When she then goes for car rides, use the crate. Then drape a blanket over the crate to obscure what she sees. There's a mesh eye cover used for dogs that's similar to

the face covering used on horses to keep flies away, which does the same job;

however, I've not found them in South Africa. I believe they work like a dream.



DASHING DOGS



Due to various circumstances, my fiancé and I had to move back in with my parents, bringing our Greyhound and Dobermann with us. The problem is that our driveway isn't separate, so when we pull in or go out, the dogs run out into the road, and the other day they nearly

bit a passer-by. It becomes difficult as we now have to call ahead when we're around the corner so that someone can put the dogs inside. We lock them inside when we leave, too, and let them out when the gate's closed. However, we're worried that accidents can happen and

that we might forget. Is it possible to train a dog to sit and wait until the gate is closed? Our pet store owner recommended that a behaviourist should come to our home, but at this stage we don't have the budget.

– NIKKI ROSSOUW

JULIE SAYS – Dogs running into the street are a danger to themselves and to others. It certainly is possible to train a dog to stay. If one clearly demonstrates to the dog what's required of him and consistently practises it, it's not a difficult exercise to do. I suggest you perhaps see if there's a reputable training school in your area that can assist you with teaching your pets basic commands and to assist with the aggression towards strangers in the street. In the meantime, perhaps try and reduce the possible boredom and under-stimulation by providing the dogs with yummy lasting chews for during the day, along with structured playtime and structured short walks.



**UNLEASH
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YOUR DOG'S BODY LANGUAGE FROM HEAD TO TAIL: A QUICK OVERVIEW

With a few handy key indicators to look out for, you can take the guessing out of what your dog, or any other dog, is trying to say to you without words. As with people's body language, it's never only about a single visual cue, but about interpreting a combination of signs as a whole.

A wagging tail, for instance, can mean friendliness or playfulness, but a high, stiff moving tail is actually a sign that a dog is 'flagging' another dog or person and is ready to attack if necessary.

The first rule of reading a dog's body language is to actually pay attention to what you're seeing. This is a skill that will stand you in good stead in your interactions with people too. It's amazing how much meaning people actually convey in their body language and tone of voice. The famous study by Professor Albert Mehrabian of the University of California in the 1970s actually concluded that only 7% of human communication is actually about what's being said.

Body language (55%) and tone of voice (38%) are the most important conveyors of meaning. I guess we're not so different from dogs after all.

But let's get back to our little crash course in canine body language. The first thing to distinguish is whether a dog looks relaxed or stressed. If it's stressed, it's guaranteed to show one of three responses: fight, flight or avoidance. But how does one tell? One of the most basic things to look for is the height of the dog's head and tail. If they're raised high, the dog's feeling confident and dominant. If it's lower than the rest of the body, it's feeling submissive or uncertain, and possibly afraid.

The dog behavioural guru, Cesar Milan, talks about analysing this in combination with the tension in a dog's hind legs. Take a dog in the well-known playful bow pose, for instance. Its head is lower than its body, but its back legs and tail are high — therefore, it's submissive but relaxed, and inviting you or another dog to engage with it. An aggressive dog will have the opposite balance of energy: hind legs down and tense and ready to release energy, and its head higher or in line with its body.

The tales the tail tells

The other, and perhaps most obvious things to look at, are your dog's tail movement and the position of its ears. Tail up = excited. Tail in natural position = relaxed. Tail tucked between its legs = uncertain and submissive. A tail wagging in a wide motion indicates playfulness and affection. The smaller the movement, the less certain and relaxed a dog is. If the tail is held stiff and high or quivering, it's a dead give-away that the dog is aggressive and warning the perceived threat to back off.

Interestingly, dogs with docked tails like Bulldogs tend to sometimes be treated with distrust by other dogs in the park at first because they can't 'read' their tail language. Similarly, dogs that tend to carry their tails upright or curled on their back tend to get more hostile reactions from dominant dogs as it's perceived as dominant body language.

Hey, listen, I'm telling you something with my ears!

Interpreting 'ear' language is not all that hard at all. Of course, dogs' ears differ greatly. But the general cues are as follows: naturally positioned ears = dog is relaxed. Upright ears = dog is attentive and tuning in. Ears held higher or more forward = dog is feeling aggressive. Ears back and flat or sticking straight out to the side = dog is nervous or scared.

The displacement tactic

If you've ever had a mischievous dog that demanded a stern voice, you might have noticed some peculiar behaviour as soon as you start reprimanding it. It might start scratching its head in earnest or suddenly feel the need to yawn. This is a sign that it's trying to divert attention away from itself and get out of harm's way. The good old dog shake could mean that he's just woken up, but it's also a way of naturally getting rid of tension and you'll often notice this when your dog picks up on your anxiety or anger. Interestingly, that sulky, guilty look your pooch gets when you've just caught him destroying your slipper, is not guilt at all (dogs don't experience guilt) but pure fear in reaction to your anger. Which is why punishment rarely works with dogs, but positive reinforcement works wonders.

Eye contact

A last note is about eye contact in dogs. The golden rule is that, in the dog world, direct eye contact is seen as a challenge. Dogs rarely look each other straight in the eyes, although they might be more willing to engage in eye contact with people, especially their owners. Squinted or narrowed eyes might indicate that your dog is not feeling well or is experiencing pain. Larger than normal eyes with lots of white showing is a good indication that it's anxious and feels threatened. A direct stare from a dog means that it is challenging you and if it's a strange, aggressive dog, it's best to look away to indicate that you're not challenging it.

A calm, loving direct gaze from your best friend, however, simply means that he's interested in you and expressing curiosity in your strange human behaviour. After all, your dog is probably trying to figure out your body language just as hard as you're trying to figure out his.

Here are a few handy indicators to help you understand what your dog is trying to say to you without words:

I'm relaxed & happy

- head and tail raised
- tail in natural position or wagging
- calm and direct gaze, relaxed lids
- naturally positioned ears
- relaxed or "smiling" mouth



Play with me

- tail or body wiggling
- wagging tail
- bent front legs and bum high
- excited panting
- tongue sticking out



I am submissive

- lowered head
- soft, squint eyes
- avoiding eye contact
- exposed belly to show deference



I am scared

- tail tucked or low
- lowered body or head
- ears flat and eyes wide open
- trembling body



I am stressed & might get aggressive

- standing tall and slightly forward
- tail high or straight, maybe moving slightly from side to side
- ears spread to side or forward
- hackles / hairs on back raised
- wide eyes and maybe exposed teeth



Keeping your dog sane during the FESTIVE SEASON

By Celia Forsyth ADIPCBM (UK), Canine Behaviour Specialist (Accredited Canine Behaviourist and Trainer – SABCAP), Pet Sense College/Happy Pack Dog Training and Behaviour Management

Good advice for the festive season, as well as other busy times in the year

The festive season usually encompasses celebratory events such as Christmas luncheons with family or a party for New Year's. You might have people coming to stay. If your home is usually quiet and you've decided to have family and friends over, it brings with it a host of possible stressful situations for your dog. Changes in the dog's home can be stressful, depending on how comfortable your dog is with people, children and noises, and we need to keep our furry friends safe from hazardous Christmas decorations as well. Remember that this advice also applies to any other busy time in your home – not just over the holidays.

CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Set up a space in a quieter area in your home and let your dog have the choice to leave should he wish to. Laughter, music, clashing dishes, etc. are loud noises that can freak your dog out. Setting up a dog bed in a bedroom will help your dog find a quieter place to go and chill. If there are children running around and possibly going to disturb your dog, then perhaps keep the door closed and let the kids know not to disturb the dog. Ensure you have water for him in the room, and you can also play a radio softly so as to dampen the noise emanating from your guests. If, however, your dogs are super-happy to have guests around, which might mean

they'll exuberantly greet your guests, I suggest you keep them outside until your guests have settled. Then let the dogs in, and it should create a calmer greeting of your guests by the dogs. It's a good idea to walk the dogs before your guests arrive, as they'll be less energetic.

DÉCOR DISASTER

Christmas decorations for your home can be hazardous if your dog happens to eat any of them. Ornaments, low-hanging tinsel and tree lights pose a serious problem if any of them are ingested by your dog, as it could cause internal blockages. Keep this in mind when decorating by hanging and placing items out of reach.

SAY NO TO FATTY FOODS

Festive food is what we dream of when we think of the holiday season, and of course there'll be leftovers. Don't be tempted to give your dog anything that's rich or fatty, as this will upset your dog's stomach and can cause serious illness. Cooked bones aren't ideal as they can splinter and cause internal bleeding. Rather feed your dog before lunch and keep a suitable treat for them after you've had your lunch.

BIG BANGS

New Year's Eve is a dreaded time for any dog owner. Take every precaution to help your dog cope with fireworks. Have a chat with your vet and get an

effective calming medication. Bring your dog inside and close all doors and windows to muffle the sounds of fireworks. Close curtains so that your dog can't see the flashing lights. Also turn up the television to mask the sounds. Ignore the fireworks yourself, as your dog's watching your every movement. Create a safe space or doggy den that your dog can go to when he's scared, or if he prefers your lap, that's fine. If your dog's uneasy with the noises, you can also create a really special occasion for him by inviting him to play before the noises start. Encourage him to play with his favourite toy and provide some tasty snacks. This helps to prevent noise phobia setting in and gets the dog thinking of play instead of fear. If your dog's not interested in play, don't force him. Rather let him go to his safe space. Should your dog be frightened of noises in general, you can call a qualified and accredited behaviour consultant to desensitise your dog to noises. 🐾



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Leaving your dogs behind when you go on holiday?

By Danielle Russell



Going on holiday is something most people look forward to, but for some pet parents, it's an extremely stressful time. Leaving your fur kids behind can cause a lot of worry and sadness, and it's hard to have a good time when you're concerned about your dogs back home. Are they sad? Are they missing you? Are they eating? Are they safe?

When you're planning your holiday, it's difficult to decide whether your dog's better off at home with a pet sitter, boarded at a kennel, or left with a friend or family member.

On the flip side, there are those who pack up and leave without a care about who'll take care of their dogs while they're away. The festive season is a time when the SPCA receives many calls concerning dogs that have been

abandoned at home without food or water. Or, tragically, there are those who are dropped off at shelters, and the family will get a new dog when they return.

EASING THE ANXIETY

If it's your first time going away on holiday without your dog, you can keep them as happy as possible and provide the best care for them while you're away. Prepare and plan everything ahead of time to make sure the time you spend apart is the best it can be for both you and your dog.

BRING YOUR DOG WITH YOU?

Many holiday homes and even hotels are now allowing pets, and going away with your dog has so many advantages. But this option isn't always suitable for all dogs and those who might not be sociable or well trained. You don't

want your dog locked up in a room while you're out and about enjoying your holiday. Dogs aren't allowed in many hotels, most restaurants, and should never be left alone in the car. You might find it difficult to see to all your dog's needs while you're on holiday, and you don't want to end up begrudging that he or she came along.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CARE...

It's important that your dog feels happy and secure and that you can rest at ease knowing that they're safe and well taken care of. Here are your options –

Veterinary care – Some veterinarians offer boarding services for dogs, and this is a great option if your dog needs regular medical attention or careful monitoring. Just make sure that your dog won't spend his or her time in a cage, will be given enough exercise, and won't be boarded with other dogs that are sick.

At home with a dog sitter – This is ideal if you have someone whom you can trust entirely staying at home with your dogs. Just make certain that you choose a person who isn't going to lock your dog in the back garden, have parties in your home, or disappear for days on end. Believe me, it happens! Friends and family members make great house and pet sitters, but you can also hire a professional who comes with references. Having someone live in your house is also great for security. Keep in

Ensure that your dog is ready for when you go away on holiday

touch regularly and ask for photos and videos of your dog. If you're nervous, get someone you trust to visit your home daily at odd hours to see your dogs. Introduce your dogs to the house sitter long before the time of your holiday to ensure that they're the right fit. It's pointless leaving your large Great Dane or Mastiff with someone who's terrified of dogs!

A dog sitter's home – Some dog sitters offer to have your dog come and live with them while you're away. As with a dog sitter in your home, make sure that you can completely trust the person looking after your dog. If the sitter has other dogs, ensure that your dog gets along well with them.

Kennel boarding – There are many dog hotels and boarding kennels available all over the country. Do your research, get references, and visit the doggy hotel of your choice to ensure that your fur kid will get the best of care and be happy. Look for a kennelling facility that caters for dogs that are used to sleeping indoors or who are afraid of lightning storms and fireworks. Visit the kennel unannounced before making the decision about where to leave your dogs. Some shelters also offer great kennelling facilities, including Woodrock Animal Rescue in Hennops, Johannesburg.

PREPARING FOR YOUR HOLIDAY

Ensure that your dog is ready for when you go away on holiday,

especially if you travel frequently. The following are tips for a happy holiday for you and your doggo –

- Ensure that your dog is well trained and socialised.
- Make sure that your dog is fully vaccinated.
- Write down your dog's schedule for the sitter. This includes mealtimes, medication times, play time, bathroom break time, and bedtime.
- Leave a list of instructions or educate your dog sitter on any behavioural issues your dog might have, such as a fear of storms or fireworks, jumping walls, any aggressive behaviour, or messing in the house.
- Leave a list of contact numbers for your dog sitter, including family or friends close by and your veterinarian.
- Leave all your dog's requirements (especially if your dog's going to friends or family or a kennel) such as their leash, water and food bowls, brush, medications, bed, special blankets and favourite toys.
- Leave enough food and favourite treats.
- Make sure that you have enough toys for your dog to play with.
- When it's time to leave, leave with confidence and without tears and anxiety, which will also affect your dog.
- Allowing your dog to meet the pet sitter a couple of times before you leave will help him or her feel more comfortable.
- If your dog experiences separation anxiety, talk to your dog's sitter and be sure they won't be left alone for long periods, or at all if the separation anxiety is intense.
- Remember that dogs don't have the same concept of time as humans. Whether you're gone for an afternoon or two weeks, your fur kid will greet you happily when you return. 🐾



Working from HOME with DOGS



Now, I've always been very fortunate to have my offices attached to my home, so my dogs have always been with me while I work. When lockdown happened, I literally didn't skip a beat, and in fact I found that without a constant round of meetings and time spent in traffic every week, I saved between six and ten hours a week! Not to mention the cost of fuel, wear and tear on my car, and the stress that comes from sitting in traffic.

I, for one, wish that more companies would allow their staff to work from home, as I believe more work will be done, people will be happier and, of course, we wouldn't need to

leave our fur kids alone all day!

Over the years, I've definitely found that there are ways to make your working from home with your dogs easier for both of you. With a bit of planning, you and your dog can both benefit from working from home.

Make sure your dog's settled before going into a Zoom meeting or working on a deadline
Before you start your workday at home, see to it that you first tend to your dog's needs. This means walking, feeding, watering, and giving some love and attention to your dog before you log in to work.

Also make sure that your dog's

settled before going into a Zoom meeting, as you don't want your dog barking, whining or scratching at your leg while the chairman of the board is speaking to you.

Establish a working routine – just as you did when you used to leave in the morning to go to work. By establishing a routine, your dog will be less likely to seek attention from you once you're working, and you'll (possibly) be less tempted to stop working every five minutes to stroke silky ears or rub a tummy.

Setting up your workspace
My dogs love lying at my feet while I work, and I find having them close by is very calming.



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Artistic Realism

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Studies have shown that employees who work from home are actually more productive than those who commute to the workplace

That was until yesterday, whilst on a speakerphone call to a very important sponsor of Canine Zone, when my Drake started emitting very loud snoring noises, which had everyone in fits of giggles. If your dog is too distracting and you have room in your home, consider setting up a separate work area for yourself that's off limits to your doggo. Just remember that a benefit of working from home is being able to spend time with your dog.

Be creative about setting up a work-from-home setup that'll include your dog. Set up a comfy doggy bed under your desk or close by. Dog-proof your office by ensuring there aren't any cables to chew on or pieces of paper to eat. Include a toy box containing different chew toys that your dog will enjoy. Rotate them daily and keep a favourite

toy at hand that you can quickly bring out for your dog when the boss calls.

Take breaks

Don't forget to take breaks throughout the day, just as you would if you worked in the office and you spent time with co-workers. Your co-worker now is furry, and he or she will enjoy a break to play a quick game of fetch, go for a walk or a swim, or just for cuddle time.


Keeping your dog occupied

In the pet industry that I work in, I've been on so many Zoom meetings where the dogs can be heard playing or barking in the background. I love hearing the dogs and seeing them too, but not everyone will enjoy the interruption. When you have a meeting scheduled, prepare in advance. Fill a dog toy with

peanut butter and freeze it to be brought out when there's an important meeting. If it's the right toy, this can keep your dog occupied for at least half an hour or more. Or bring out a special toy only when there's a Zoom meeting scheduled. You can also exercise your dog before the meeting so that he or she will be tired and will nap during the call. If all else fails, simply close the door to your office whilst the meeting is in progress.

Benefits to working from home

Studies have shown that employees who work from home are actually more productive than those who commute to the workplace. In April, research was conducted on people working from home in the USA and it was found that 54% said they feel less anxious because they have their pet with them. Two-thirds said they feel happier working from home because they have the company of their pet. The majority of pet parents (70%) said working from home helps them get more exercise by walking or playing with their pet. The majority (86%) of pet parents said spending time with their pets helps alleviate stress from today's news topics like the coronavirus, the economy, and politics.

Pet parents are most likely to turn to their pets to reduce or relieve stress from news of current events. 40% said they turn to their dog or cat, compared to a significant other (23%) or family member (13%). 



8 Summer Safety Tips

Summer is here and time to have fun, safely!



Our dogs love summer as much as we do, as it's a time when they get to spend more time with their humans. Things might be a little different this year, but we can still get out and about with our precious fur kids. Just remember that it's important to keep your dog safe and healthy too. Read on to learn some important summer safety tips for dogs.

1. Never, ever, ever leave your dog in a hot car. It makes sense, yet we still see so many people doing it! Did you know that it takes mere minutes for a dog to develop heat stroke and suffocate in a hot car? Especially in South Africa and when a car's parked in the sun. It's best not to take your dog with you if you're going to have to leave him or her in the

car, even for a very short amount of time!

2. Make sure your dog is protected from ticks and fleas, because if they're not, they're at risk of contracting horrible illnesses such as Biliary. There's an abundance of tick and flea products on the market that'll keep your dog safe.

3. Keep your dog's paws cool. Believe it or not, it's common for people to take their dogs for a walk in the middle of the day in 35-degree heat. And when it's boiling hot, surfaces like tar, cement and paving can get very hot! Not only can this burn paws, but it can also increase body temperature and lead to overheating. Also don't put your dog in the back of a bakkie (truck) – in addition to the risk of falling out and being badly injured or killed,

the hot metal can burn paws.

4. Fresh water and shade are so important! Dogs get very thirsty when it's hot, so they also need fresh, clean, cool water to drink. If they're outside during the day, make sure they have a shady and cool spot in which to rest. You could also invest in a little kiddie's pool for your dog to safely cool off in.

5. Some dogs aren't good swimmers, so if they jump or fall into your pool, they may not be able to get out. Ensure that your dog can't get into your pool when you aren't monitoring him.

6. Watch out for sunburn! Yes, dogs can get sunburn and skin cancer too, especially those with short or light-coloured coats. Talk to your veterinarian or pet store staff about sunscreens that are specifically for dogs.

7. Watch what your dog eats – during the summer months, we're more likely to braai or eat outdoors. Make sure that your dog can't get hold of bones or any human foods that could be dangerous for him or her.

8. Of course, summer is once again the time for the dreaded fireworks, and whilst there's been education regarding the harm fireworks inflict on both animals and people, humans will continue to have their "fun" at the expense of other living creatures. Ensure that your dog is inside and safe with you, especially on New Year's Eve. Don't leave them outside and rather stay home with your furry family member to offer support when those non-sensical big bangs go off. 🐾



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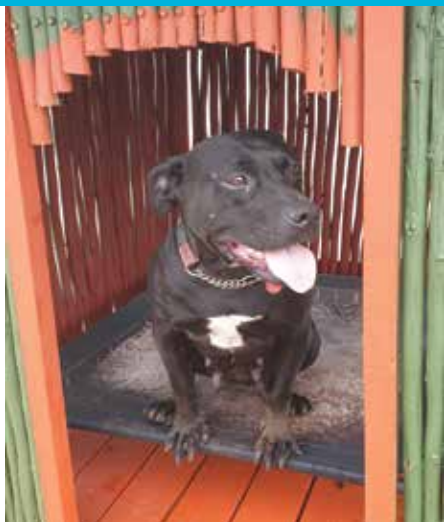
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ES LA VIDA ANIMAL HAVEN

– born out of dreams

By the Es la Vida team



Es la Vida Animal Haven, near Stanford in the Overberg region of the Western Cape, was born out of the dreams of one woman who wanted to offer something more to dogs in need. Since the start of the haven in 2018, it has evolved into a rehabilitation space – adopting from shelters the dogs who are struggling to get adopted and working with these dogs across the physical, mental, behavioural and emotional spectrum to help them become the best version of themselves. Giving them all the tools and training they need to fit into a human world, and then helping them find their forever homes.

This is achieved through marrying the techniques of animal behaviour training and behaviour modification with other holistic and more “alternative” modalities, including animal communication, energy healing, emotional trauma release, and natural supportive remedies.

A PLACE OF DREAMS

The haven is a relatively small facility, housing a maximum of four dogs at any given time, which allows for individual attention in all aspects of their well-being. Dogs are housed in individual, spacious kennels, each with access to a small run. Training facilities include several training areas and a well-equipped agility paddock. More than just helping the dogs, ELV also offers workshops and courses for humans in all things dog, and animal, related. From workshops on animal communication and Reiki for Animals to workshops on emergency first aid for animals, kinesiology, TTouch, Emmett for dogs, regular events such as dog walks, and even an introductory flyball event.


Assistance is also offered to the local dog-owning communities who need help with behaviour problems, dog training, meet-and-greets and the like. Community support is given through donations to dog-feeding projects and donating to and supporting local animal rescue shelters.

TIME FOR TASHA

One of the special dogs currently at the haven is Tasha, a Staffie who joined us in October 2018. She'd originally come into BARC heavily pregnant, highly stressed, nameless, and in poor condition. She lost her pups shortly after

they were born, and six months later she was sterilised as part of a mass sterilisation drive organised through Hermanus Animal Welfare (HAWs). Her body didn't cope well with the sterilisation, and at her foster recovery she bled through the first night. We communicated with her the next morning to hold on until we could get her to the vet. In this communication, she let us know that she didn't see a future for herself and had little hope or wish to carry on forward, so we offered her the chance to come to the haven to experience a different aspect to life as she'd known it up until then.

When she arrived at the haven, she had no understanding of training or obedience, and she had no socialisation skills with other dogs. But what she did have, from the beginning, was a big heart, and as she opened up to us and learnt to cuddle, learnt to know what her name was, learnt that training could be fun and that the other dogs weren't so bad after all, she blossomed and has been an incredible example to us of the power that compassion, understanding, listening, and trust hold.

We're happy to say that Tasha has grown so much that she now has supervised playtime with the other dogs; she's funny yet tough; cuddly yet no pushover; and she makes every human who meets her fall in love with her. 

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Help!

My dog is eating Poo!



Coprophagia, the technical term for eating faeces, is what we call an undesirable, natural behaviour.

Although still not cemented in science, there are potential reasons why some dogs eat their own or other dogs' or cats' faeces.

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LIONEL'S CHOICE

Holistic Nutrition



A natural behaviour?

Coprophagia, the technical term for eating faeces, is what we call an undesirable, natural behaviour. This means that it's a natural behaviour but deemed undesirable by our own standards because, simply, we as humans think it's gross. With, of course, the bad breath that comes with it.

Not all dogs do it, and it can be learned behaviour from other dogs, individual preference or environment. But from research, for whatever reason, it's more uncommon than common for a dog to eat faeces. It can boil down to some dogs do it as a behavioural trait and others don't.

So why would a dog do it?

Making up for deficiencies.

It's important to note that a dog fed a completely balanced diet, with all its nutritional needs met, may still eat faeces as it can be a behavioural trait that has nothing to do with nutrient deficiencies in the diet. It's a common belief that a dog is eating its own faeces, therefore it must be trying to make up for a deficiency.

Cleaning up.

Other reasons can include mothers cleaning up after their puppies or cleaning their own environment. Eating out of curiosity can also be a cause.

The domestic dog's ancestral past.

It's also been hypothesised that it's a trait that's never fully been bred out of the domestic dog from its ancestral past in order to rid any evidence from potential predators (but the science on this one isn't very clear).

Their smell.

In terms of eating cat faeces, it could be the same reason why a dog would eat cat food itself. To us, it doesn't smell nice, but to the dog it smells like what the cat has ingested.

Reducing and preventing Coprophagia

In Lionel's Choice food, we include Capsicum extract, which has shown to assist in reducing/preventing Coprophagia.

Furthermore, if a dog is going to eat faeces, it will be within the first two days of the faeces being there, so quite simply you can avoid this habit merely by cleaning up regularly after your dog.

All in all, for the most part, besides the human "gross" factor, if you're feeding your dog complete and balanced nutrition according to the feeding guide, you have nothing to worry about.



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Holistic Nutrition

FREE US FROM FIREWORKS!

By Adam Bailey



Every year it's the same thing – caring pet parents feel despondent and overwhelmed by the upcoming New Year's Eve fireworks pandemic, which can ruin the entire festive season. There are fights in neighbourhoods and numerous petitions are signed – all to no avail. There'll always be those who put themselves first with no compassion for animals. There'll always be those who will, in their small minds, find loud bangs entertaining and who get a sadistic pleasure from harming and scaring animals (and humans).

So, this year, rather than encouraging people with so many excellent reasons not to set off fireworks, I decided to rather focus on those who leave their pets alone at home on New Year's Eve and go off to enjoy themselves without a care in the world. And then the next day we see all those tearful posts about

dogs and cats being missing or being found dead. Crocodile tears.

Now, before everyone jumps on me about being a spoiler of human fun, let me tell you that I was one of those men (those who set off fireworks are 99.9% men) who'd spend a huge amount of money every year on fireworks. I thought it was cool to get my buddies together, bring out the beer, turn up the music and end the evening with a macho fireworks display. I continued with this New Year's Eve tradition even when one of my friends, who was a graphic artist, blew his thumb off. It wasn't until I met my wife and we adopted a little cross-breed puppy from a shelter that I changed my way of thinking. The pain and suffering in little Jo's eyes when fireworks were set off was unbearable to me.

Now the proud father of two human children and four furry children, I spend my New Year's Eves comforting my own children and dogs and then driving around the suburbs finding traumatised, injured and, yes, sometimes even deceased, pets. We generally no longer celebrate New Year's Eve, as how can we wish each other blessings for a new year when so much pain is being caused? How can people wish to have a new year filled with joy and prosperity when they start it off by causing so much trauma and death? Makes no sense at all.

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM, DO YOUR BEST FOR ANIMALS

It's natural for dogs to be afraid of loud noises. It's how they're wired. The loud bangs trigger their nervous systems, and they can become anxious or afraid. Running away from the noise is a survival instinct, and they'll do anything to get away. Some dogs experience panting, howling, pacing, whining, hiding, trembling and even self-injury. How a dog responds to fireworks may be influenced by breed, upbringing, or sensitivity levels. The sound of fireworks differs from other natural loud noises, such as thunder, because they're closer to the ground, more vibrant, and are accompanied by sudden booms, flashes and burning smells. Dogs experience the world through their senses – their ears, eyes and nose, so fireworks are overwhelming for them.

KEEP YOUR OWN DOGS SAFE AND EDUCATE OTHERS

It's so important to try and educate others. And ladies – please educate your men! Here are a few ways to make sure that your dogs (and cats) are safe on New Year's Eve (and the following few nights when a few die-hard jerks are still letting off their expensive fireworks):

1. Stay at home with your pets! This is vitally important and the first step. If you're in an area where there are a horrific number of fireworks, then take your dog to a friend or

LET'S STOP THE MADNESS


family member's home for the evening where it'll be quieter. Get him used to going there before New Year's Eve.

2. If you're away on holiday, ensure that your house sitter will be at home with your dogs. Don't put your dogs into outdoor kennels if they're terrified of fireworks.
3. Never leave your dogs outside on New Year's Eve (or, again, for the next few nights thereafter).
4. If your dog is badly affected, speak to your veterinarian about sedation, or use a natural remedy from Pegasus Homeopathics or Regal Pet Health.
5. Be calm yourself. This will

help your dog relax. Close the curtains, turn down the lights, and play calming music or watch a movie. Communicate with your dog using calming energies.

6. Take your dog for a long walk or have a good play session on the day of New Year's Eve. This will help tire him or her out.
7. Don't think that your family's missing out on a great time by not following the brainless and using fireworks. Fireworks cause so much damage to dogs, cats, birds and wildlife, and they also pollute the environment. By buying fireworks you're also supporting companies that

abuse their "cheap labour" staff. Save your money and buy yourself something nice.

8. If your dog is afraid of fireworks, have your veterinarian evaluate him or her. One recent study found a link between pain and noise sensitivities in older dogs, indicating that muscle tension or sudden movements in response to a loud noise may aggravate a tender area on the body and thus create an association between the loud noise and pain, causing fear of that particular noise to develop or escalate.
9. If you must light something on New Year's Eve, pick up some sparklers! 

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All you have to do is follow Complete Pet Food on their Facebook page and then download their Loyalty App from Google Play or the iStore and register for the loyalty programme. Entries close on the 20th of January and winners will be announced on the 30th of January.



Terms and Conditions

The prize is for accommodation at Dumela Holiday Resort only. All transport and other costs to be covered by the winner. The accommodation will be for a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday out of season. No correspondence will be entered into and all competition criteria must be fulfilled in order to win. Winners will be chosen from registrations.

A Gift of Love During Lockdown

By Julia Lamberti-Moreira



As the world was plunged into crisis due to the Corona virus, our family received unexpected gifts that would change our lives forever...

I have always loved the look of a Pug. Call me crazy, but a flat face, snub nose, stocky little body and curly tail all scream cute to me. Despite having never owned a Pug, my interest in the breed led me to discover the incredible Pug Haven (Heaven), built by Malcolm and Cheryl Gaw, founders of Pug Rescue South Africa. It was around 2013 that I first attended a fundraiser at their Haven in Benoni, and from the moment I entered the gates of this shelter I was blown away. Plush Pugs joyfully bouncing about, bone-shaped doggie pools, a manicured garden and magnificent facilities... all immaculately maintained. You could see the care and attention to detail put into every inch of this charming place.

As my future husband and I sipped wine, listened to live music, cuddled more Pugs than we could count and took part in the fun raffles and activities, we knew that these monthly fundraisers (affectionately known as a "Yappy Hour") would become

a regular part of our life as a couple. After marrying in 2015, we soon had a little boy, and the demands of parenthood meant that we couldn't visit Pug Haven as regularly as we once did. Yet, we continued to support the shelter and follow Cheryl and Malcolm's incredible work with both Pug Rescue and their Thanda Inja Project for disadvantaged pet owners in Daveyton Township on the East Rand.

BECOMING "FOSTER FAILURES"

Just as South Africa began its National Lockdown in March, Pug Rescue appealed to their most trusted supporters to foster rescues. Our intention was always to adopt a Pug, but we'd planned to do so when our now nearly four-year-old son was slightly older. However, Pug Rescue desperately needed help caring for hundreds of dogs whilst in deep lockdown, and we decided to assist by welcoming a rescue into our home.

From the moment our son met Marley at the shelter on collection day, he fell in love, and my husband and I were equally smitten with this stunning nine-year-old boy. We'd expected a sweet addition to our home but could never have anticipated how truly

loving and loyal Pugs are. Having a Pug is literally like having a ball of love follow you around all day! An added bonus was that our son would confidently sleep in his own bed the entire night because "his Marley" slept alongside him, and he'd thank me at least five times a day for getting him a dog. We were officially "Foster Fails" and had already applied to formally adopt our little guy as a permanent member of our family. Then the unthinkable happened.

AN APPALLING ACCIDENT

The morning of May 10th began so peacefully. I'd spent the first part of the day outside in the garden, with Marley faithfully glued to my side as I swept the autumn leaves. Each time I turned around, Marls would be lounging in the closest patch of sun, all snug in his new tartan winter jacket. I'll never forget the vision of my son, on the floor with Marley on our driveway in the morning sunshine, cuddling and talking to him softly, saying how much he loved his dog and asking me: "Mommy, am I a good Pug dad?" That was a moment so poignant that it will forever be etched in my memory. Just two hours later our Marley was gone – killed by a

Some of the most incredible gifts can arise out of the darkest times

careless workman who'd sped out of our property after finishing a home repair job.

The driver hadn't seen the dog and didn't even know that he'd hit Marley with his truck before rushing off. My husband had let out a blood-curdling scream and ran to try to stop Marley from running under the vehicle... but it all happened too quickly. A small consolation was that our beloved Marley passed away almost immediately and didn't suffer for long. Yet, as I held his lifeless body on the way to the vet, all I kept thinking was how unbelievable it was that I'd held a rambunctious, bright-eyed Pug in that very seat just a few weeks before when bringing him home. Marley had brought us such light during the darkness and uncertainty of lockdown, and our hearts were truly shattered by his loss. Thankfully, two special souls would soon come into our lives, helping to ease the pain that threatened to overshadow our family.

RAINBOW PUGS TO THE RESCUE

Very soon after Marley's passing, we received a call from Cheryl saying that there was another Pug in need of a good home. Buddy was a seven-year-old boy who'd been in and out of Pug Haven due to circumstances beyond his control, and his wonderful foster family were unable to keep him permanently. This would mean him once again having to be sent back to the shelter after feeling the love and stability of a home and family for five weeks. Cheryl gently suggested fostering Buddy in order to offer our son some companionship and comfort after losing his beloved Marley. Her empathy and support during this horrific period were truly extraordinary, and I'm so grateful that she trusted us with another of her rescues after our

heartbreaking ordeal. Despite feeling raw with grief, my husband and I immediately said yes to fostering Buddy, and it proved to be the best decision we ever made.

From the moment his teary-eyed foster parents reluctantly handed him over to us, we connected with this gorgeous, blonde Pug. He seemed to blend into our family effortlessly, and we formally adopted him the moment lockdown restrictions eased. Buddy is especially close to my husband, and they adore their daily morning jogs and regular cuddles. There's little doubt that this dog now knows that he's finally found his forever home, and the uncertainty and rejection of his past is nothing but a distant memory.

A few months later, we couldn't resist adopting another magnificent five-year-old Pug named Preston, who'd been surrendered to Pug Haven when

his owner fell on hard times in March. While Buddy is my husband's boy, Preston is definitely my baby. Gentle, loyal and loving, Preston has the innocent energy of a small child, and there isn't a moment when he's not by my side. Talk about a "Velcro Pug"! We're now considering adopting a third Pug, because it seems that the old saying is true: one Pug is never enough!

INCREDIBLE GIFTS ARISING OUT OF THE DARKEST TIMES

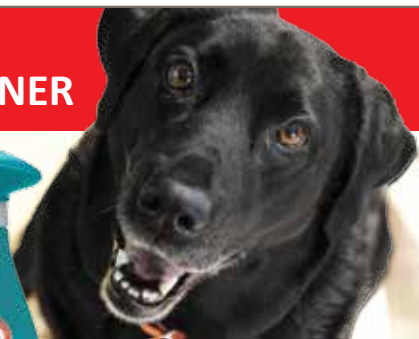
This year has been a period of real fear, grief and hardship for many people, and all of our lives have been irrevocably changed. However, I truly believe that some of the most incredible gifts can arise out of the darkest times. Marley, Buddy and Preston have certainly been gifts for our family, and no matter what the future brings, these little dogs are a reminder that, in the end, all that really counts is the love we give and the love we receive. What greater lesson and blessing than that? 🐾

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Loving Eyevy

Becoming a mascot for Khayelitsha-based animal clinic

At just six weeks of age, Eyevy was completely blind in one eye and half her face was deformed. She was admitted to the Mdzananda Animal Clinic in Khayelitsha where her veterinarians believed she'd chewed on a live electrical wire.

Unfortunately, Eyevy's previous owners had left her injury without treatment for too long. An infection had spread to her eye, blinding it completely. The electric shock and infection also caused most of her teeth on one side of her face to fall out, and she only had half her tongue. The skin around her mouth started to die. At Mdzananda, Eyevy's face was stitched up repeatedly, but each time the skin would die around the stitched area. Finally, after numerous attempts at debriding and stitching, her skin began to heal.

JUST A HAPPY PUPPY

"Even though she was in pain, Eyevy was the happiest puppy we'd met, always offering licks, skew-faced smiles and tail wags," says Marcelle du Plessis, Fundraising and Communications Manager. She needed a very special home and found it with Laetitia Genis, her husband and their two-year-old daughter, Lila, in Kuilsriver. They named her Eyevy because of her special eye.

Laetitia saw Eyevy, then named Lila, on a Facebook post and immediately fell in love. "In the post her name was actually Lila, which is the same name as our daughter, so we saw it as a bit of a sign," explains Laetitia. "It's so nice to come home and someone is so excited to see you and wants to be with you all the time. Eyevy brings this atmosphere of constant love into our home. She has also taught our daughter to share and to be more patient, which is a great improvement for a two-year-old!"

GIVING BACK

Today, two years later, Eyevy, Laetitia and Lila have become patrons for the Mdzananda Animal Clinic. To support the organisation through the difficult COVID-19 time and the financial difficulties, they've

put together a video to appeal for support from the public. "The clinic's services are essential to help the pets of Khayelitsha, but the clinic has been hit hard by the pandemic. They lost significant funding, had increased expenses and were robbed three times during lockdown," says Laetitia.

#PAWMEMBER

A campaign called "Become a #PawMember" launched on the 6th of October with the aim of signing up 1,000 Paw Members, each donating R100 per month. "If we can have 1,000 people signing up, our deficit will be covered. R100 per month might not be a lot to you, but to one pet it can change their entire life," says Marcelle.

Laetitia and Eyevy signed up as Paw Members, donating R100 per month, and Laetitia says, "Without Mdzananda, we wouldn't have Eyevy, and she wouldn't have received such great treatment."

The Mdzananda Animal Clinic serves up to 1,000 community pets per month through consultations, hospitalisation, general and orthopaedic surgeries, continuous sterilisations, mobile clinics, an animal ambulance, and abandoned pet adoptions. The organisation has a strong focus on community empowerment and education to ensure responsible pet ownership into the future. To sign up as a Paw Member, visit www.mdzanandasecure.co.za, email info@mdzananda.co.za, or visit their website at www.mdzananda.co.za to find out more. 🐾



Benny's Journey with Megaoesophagus

By Karen Janisch (Blue Bundu Brigade)



emergency facility, and after obtaining a full medical history of Benny, he went in for x-rays. After a while, we reviewed the x-rays with the vet and were given the dreadful news – Benny had a full-blown aspirate pneumonia and a condition called Megaoesophagus.

In short, in Megaoesophagus, dogs are unable to swallow food normally because their oesophagus lacks the muscular tone and mobility needed to move food and water. Instead, their oesophagus dilates, and food/water backs up, causing them to regurgitate the meal/water. This condition is the most common cause of regurgitation in dogs. Benny was placed in an oxygen tent to help his breathing, and treatment commenced for his pneumonia.

Benny and his sister, Lucy, were rescued from a township near the Ballito area in Durban, KZN, in December 2019. The Blue Bundu Brigade, an animal rescue organisation based in the heart of Durban, were approached and asked to take the pups in and to rehome them to good homes.

Benny and Lucy were a mere eight weeks old when they came to us in a malnourished state, which is typical from our townships. They were vaccinated and dewormed and their journey in rehabilitation began with much love.

These siblings are very strongly bonded, and we were most fortunate to find a wonderful home for them to go to together. Sadly, this is the point where Benny's nightmare began.

MAKING THE DIAGNOSIS

We'd made a pot of cooked vegetables and meat for the dogs. They absolutely love this meal, and there was never even a grain of rice left over. Bowls were licked clean. But Benny suddenly started breathing quite rapidly, and we could see he was very uncomfortable. Something was very wrong!

We rushed him to the Hillcrest Vet, a 24-hour

MAKING A DECISION

The vet called us in and advised us to consider putting Benny to sleep. We advised the vet that we had to consider this action very carefully, but in all honesty, we just couldn't do it.

After much research, it was discovered that with the correct treatment plan, many dogs with Megaoesophagus can in fact lead productive, happy lives but might not live the average lifespan of a dog. And so, we made the decision to do our very best for Benny. He recovered well, and we brought him home.

DOING OUR BEST FOR BENNY

Benny's food has to be finely ground to a powder form and then mixed with water to the consistency of a thick milkshake with absolutely no lumps or grit.

We had what is called a Bailey Chair made up for Benny. This is used during feeding to facilitate him sitting in a 90-degree upright position – allowing gravity to pull the food into his stomach. After each meal, Benny sits in this same position for 20-30 minutes. He's given three meals a day to maintain his weight.



A little dog who's an example of resilience and positivity


We also make up a clear jelly for Benny which is his water supply. While he doesn't like it much, he's got into a very good routine with his feeding programme.

We had a special Comfi pillow made up, which has a round doughnut shape, and we slip this over Benny's head at night. The point of this pillow is to raise Benny's head above his stomach so he doesn't regurgitate and to prevent aspirate pneumonia. Benny's been hospitalised twice for aspirate pneumonia and recovered fully. He's gained weight beautifully and grown into an amazingly handsome boy. The road's been rocky, but we've had much support, which has encouraged us greatly.

A VERY SPECIAL, SPECIAL NEEDS BOY

We joined a Facebook page which offered us much support and advice on managing Megaoesophagus. Benny will always be a special needs boy and remain within our rescue organisation. It's a huge commitment to make on his ongoing care, and we have to remain focused on his condition at all times. Benny's captured many people's hearts with his story, and what's incredibly special is that no matter how sick this little boy has been, he's always wagged his tail and given smiles. He leads a normal life interacting and playing with our other rescues. This boy is a true example to us all!

Please follow Benny on our Facebook page:

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OUR TOP TOY PICKS

By Amy Westerman

Wondering what to get your best friend for Christmas, or just for a new year's gift? We've put together an irresistible doggy gift list, and here are our top 9 picks.

- 1 Beeztees Action Football** – Is a ball on your dog's wish list? Then the Beeztees Action Football is the perfect gift.



It's a soccer ball with two tug ropes on either side, and it's ideal for two dogs to pull on either side.

- 2 Beeztees Wiggle-X** – Do you have a very intelligent, energetic dog? The Wiggle-X has many functions. Insert snacks into the hole for snack searching, use it as a tug-and-pull toy, or throw it for fetch and search. Ideal for larger dogs, and it's very durable.



- 3 Beeztees Natural Puppy Range**

– Looking for a toy to spoil your new pup? These soft rubber natural toys float and are ideal for puppy teeth. No artificial colourants are used in the manufacture of this toy.



- 4 M-Pets Greenbo Natural Rubber Bone** – Is your dog a chewer? These bones are super durable; natural rubber allows for extreme durability that can withstand the most severe chewing. The Greenbo Natural Rubber dog toys promote canine dental hygiene.



- 5 M-Pets Bacon Scented Chewbo** – Does your dog love the smell of your bacon at breakfast time? This durable bacon-scented toy will help to clean teeth and gums to improve your pet's dental hygiene. It's available in three different sizes.



- 6 Dog's Life Alien Walkie Talkie**

– Does your dog enjoy stimulating sounds? This motion-activated fun ball has sound effects that can be easily activated by dogs when touched or rolled. Expect hours of chasing and fun. Includes 17 unique sound effects that are known to intrigue dogs and add tactile stimulation.



- 7 Outward Hound Tough Seamz**

– Dogs love to play, and they need toys that can stand up to their tough chewing and tugging; that's why Outward Hound Invincibles Tough Seamz dog toys are made with durable seams that help your dog play longer and harder. Available in many fun and squeaky-characters and sizes.




- 8 Supa Chew Dog Rope Toy** – If your dog enjoys rope toys, then the Supa Chew Cotton Chew Bone Rope is what you've been looking for. It's a toy that's durable for safe play and beneficial to the health of your dog's teeth, cleaning with every bite. Handmade by disabled and disadvantaged individuals in Western Cape communities, and made from 100% cotton.



- 9 Outward Hound Floatiez Dog Toys** – Does your best friend love to swim? Spoil them this summer with a Floatiez. These adorable, brightly coloured sea creature dog toys are great for any water-loving dog to enjoy. With internal tennis balls or noodles, they float, flop and bounce for added fun. Made with a canvas-type fabric, these floating dog toys can also withstand the occasional nibble and chew – so let the water fun commence today!



Ready to shop? You can pick up all of these toys at your local pet or vet store, or you can order online. 

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SPIROCERCA LUPI – what is it?

By Dr Larry Kraitzick, Bruma Lake Veterinary Clinic



Spirocerca Lupi is a worm that affects dogs in the summer rainfall areas of South Africa. If this condition is left untreated, the consequences are devastating.

LIFE CYCLE

A brief discussion of the life cycle is important so that we can understand how this worm affects your dog and why it's so dangerous.

1. Affected dogs shed the worm eggs in their faeces.
2. Dung beetles ingest the egg and serve as host as it transforms

into a larvae.

3. Small reptiles and birds may eat these beetles and therefore serve as an intermediate host.

4. If your dog eats one of the hosts, the larvae will hatch inside the stomach.
5. It will then burrow through the wall of the stomach into an artery.

6. From here it migrates into the aorta (main artery located in the chest), where it matures. This may cause thinning of the artery wall, and if this weakened

point tears, your dog will bleed to death.

7. From the aorta, the worm migrates through the chest to the oesophagus, where it forms nodules. Multiple worms may be found in one nodule. These nodules can become cancerous if left long enough.

8. In some instances, the worms can migrate to other parts of the body and form nodules.

SYMPTOMS

Signs and symptoms may include retching, gagging, coughing, regurgitation, and weight loss.

Dogs may show signs of body and joint pain. Some dogs only show decreased appetite, weakness and weight loss. The dog may also have pale gums and lips and swollen feet. If these signs are overlooked, it may result in the sudden death of your dog.

DIAGNOSIS

Diagnosis is based on seeing nodules in your dog's oesophagus. X-rays are always performed, and sometimes we can see these nodules in this way. However, the most accurate means of confirming the diagnosis is by oesophageal endoscopy (a pipe with a camera passed down your dog's oesophagus).

TREATMENT

There are two products available to treat infection – Milbemycin and Doramectin. If the disease has not progressed too far, treatment is usually very effective. If one of your dogs has been diagnosed, it's imperative to take your other dogs to your vet to have them checked too, and they should also receive preventative treatment.

PREVENTION

To some extent, Spirocerca Lupi may be prevented by monthly treatments with oral Milbemycin (Milbemax, Milpro) or applying Moxidetin (Advocate) as a spot on.



By **Dr Larry Kraitzick**
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It's important to watch out for symptoms so that you can treat this condition early, as treating complications is extremely difficult and sometimes impossible to treat late in its course.

Please note – this disease may have extremely vague symptoms, so it's advisable to get your dog examined by a vet if you're in any doubt. 



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**HOUND
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TALKING TITAN



Photography by Andre Koekemoer Photography

We love getting to know our readers and their dogs, and in this issue we meet Michaela Lendowsky and her gorgeous Rottweiler, Titan.

CZ – Tell us how your love of dogs began. Did you have dogs as a child?

ML – I’ve grown up with big dogs, and I’ve always been obsessed with them. I remember as a kid, about nine years old or so, I got every single issue of any dog magazine, and I’d read it cover to cover. The one month, the magazine came with a free clicker and an article about how to clicker train your dog with a few things to teach them – the basics: sit, down and how to walk on a leash. I immediately got my

dog at the time, a Bulldog called Dash, and started training. Dash wasn’t the most driven of dogs; he was particularly happy doing nothing. So, we taught him how to give paw, sit, lie down, and that was about all he was happy doing.

CZ – Tell us about the dog you currently share your life with.

ML – I have one dog at the moment, a Rottweiler called Titan who’ll be five years old in January.

CZ – How did Titan come into your life?

ML – In 2012, I was diagnosed with a few chronic illnesses. I was homebound most of the time, and Dash became a huge part of my life and a big part of my therapy. He died in 2015 and I felt it deeply. I struggled with depression after that and my

health became even worse – I was almost bedbound. My mum then talked to me about getting a puppy so that I could train him to be my own therapy dog. I was looking at either a Rottweiler or Retriever, since I knew both breeds well and loved them equally. I searched for a responsible breeder for a while and eventually came across Titan’s breeder. She sent me photos of the litter that she currently had, and as soon as I saw Titan, I said, “He’s mine!” and paid the deposit immediately. I went and visited them all a week before I got him, and somehow when Titan saw me, he just started cuddling me while all the other pups kept on playing with each other. He chose me. The connection was instantaneous.

How a Rottweiler changed my world



CZ – Do you feed your dogs a special diet? What are their favourite treats?

ML – I fully believe in feeding a raw diet, so Titan is on raw meat and veggies, and he's absolutely thriving. The important thing with a raw diet is that it must be balanced. It's a lot of effort to prep, but it's worth it. Titan really isn't a fussy dog at all, so he has about 107 favourite treats, ranging from apples and broccoli to chicken and venison. He does particularly enjoy his frozen fish, though.

CZ – What is Titan's favourite activity?

ML – Titan just loves being social – with dogs and people. I think his favourite activity is coming to my advanced training class with me. He's become best friends with all the dogs there, and he has a proper working dog personality. He also loves hiking at Wolwespruit and going to the dog park.

CZ – How does Titan fit into your lifestyle? When you travel, who takes care of him?

ML – Titan fits in perfectly with my lifestyle. Since I'm a dog trainer, and Titan's temperament is magnificent, I use him a lot. I use him in my advanced class to show owners what they can achieve, and I use him as an adult dog with which to socialise puppies. In rehab cases, most dogs need a very stable dog to learn to be around, one that doesn't react and stays calm, so we use Titan for this. When we travel, my family

looks after him. He'll stay at my parents' house and sleep in my old room.

CZ – Where does Titan sleep?

ML – Right next to my bed on his own very comfortable bed.

CZ – Does he have any favourite toys, games or possessions?

ML – Titan is very driven, full stop. Food, toys, affection... everything. His favourite toy is anything that squeaks, or any of the food puzzle toys. His favourite possession... probably me!

CZ – Obviously, Titan is well trained. Do you want to expand on the importance of training and socialising a dog?

ML – Obviously, I train Titan with me at my class at Dogwarts – School of Training and Trickery. I feel that it's extremely important to train dogs in a positive environment using force-free methods. A lot of people have a misconception about dog training, believing that you need to use force when training dogs and that you need to "dominate" your dog in order to get their respect. This simply isn't true. Training can be done using solely force-free methods, and the results are absolutely amazing.

CZ – Has having Titan as part of your life changed your life for the better?

ML – Titan has changed my life completely. If it wasn't for him, I never would've gotten into training. He's also my therapy dog, and I feel like he's become a huge part of who I am. He's been there for me through my worst

health battles, and he's one of my biggest victories, since everyone at the dog school is inspired by him. I honestly couldn't imagine who I would be or where I would be without this big cuddle bug.

CZ – Would you like to share anything else with our readers?

ML – I think people need to become more responsible when they get a dog, or any other pet, actually. From the moment they decide to get a pet, they already have a decision to make – adopt or shop. Either way, you're getting a living being with a complex brain, and we need to do them justice. If you get a puppy from a breeder, it's your responsibility to make sure the breeder is responsible and breeds ethically. If you want to adopt, then you need to understand what a rescue pet entails. No dog is perfect, and they'll all need help in one way or another, and we need to be responsible enough to provide the right environment and management.

CZ – Have you ever got involved with dog shelters or rescue organisations?

ML – I've partnered with a few rescues in terms of dog training and behaviour. Currently, I'm doing my shelter hours for my behaviourist qualification. I've always had a soft spot for Rottweilers and hope I can help Friends of the Rottweiler Rescue a lot more – they're always flooded with Rottweilers, and they always help them as much as they can. 

Moving Seven Dogs and Five Cats

One family's incredible journey to Spain

Travelling during 2020 is a task in itself. Relocating your whole family is triple the effort and the stress. Now just imagine, it's 2020, you're relocating your family to Spain... and let's spice it up by throwing in 12 fur kids.

Yes, your eyes aren't deceiving you. PETport's incredible clients, the Hoogervorst, relocated from Johannesburg to Spain (Malaga) in October 2020 with all 12 of their fur kids – seven dogs and five cats. Fudge and Bailey are Africanis's, Milo is a Shepherd Mix, Abby is a Dachshund mix, Spotty and Chi Chi are Chihuahua mixes (Spotty has a club foot), and Skippy is a Schnauzer mix. Cats are all DSH (Domestic Short-hair) and their names are Salem, Nanji, QT, Binx and Mini Mosi.

On the 21st of July 2020, the Hoogervorst family was introduced to PETport veteran consultant Louise, who wholeheartedly took on the epic task of moving all 12 of her clients to Spain. Shana Hoogervorst shares their incredible journey relocating her family.

MAKING THE MOVE

We'd been looking at options for a while as my children wanted to study abroad, but it was definitely not going to happen without our animals. Initially, when we adopted them, there was no way that I ever wanted to leave South Africa, but I wanted

to be close to my children. I wish I could say it was easy, but that would be a lie. It was hard and emotional, and I doubted my sanity, but it was worth it. So many people said I should rehome them or have them put to sleep, but not taking my animals was never an option.

Trying to find a direct routing from Johannesburg to Malaga was a considerable problem considering the size of the family, as well as the small aircraft operating during the worldwide pandemic. The options presented to the Hoogervorst family included an Air France flight with a drive through from Amsterdam to Malaga, but this was extremely costly. The problem that was presented was the size of aircraft, which couldn't accommodate all the fur kids in one trip. The arrangements came together with the assistance of JP from KLM in South Africa and Rene Overhart from KLM in Amsterdam, by requesting them to lift restrictions on transiting pets at the KLM Animal Hotel in Amsterdam.

Before they could fly, they had to be in a kennel, and I had them in Ballito Kennel, Cattery & Grooming. The owner, Dorothy, sent me regular updates after I dropped them off on the 15th of August. One of my good friends, Malo, also visited them regularly so that they had a familiar presence. PETport arranged for them to be driven from Durban to

Johannesburg to be kennelled at BKC Pet before their first flight on the 30th of September. They then had to fly in three batches on consecutive days. The last batch was delayed for the weekend at the last minute because the state vet didn't sign their papers on time. There were problems getting them from Amsterdam to Spain, and eventually they had to be driven the last stretch from Madrid to Malaga.

The whole process was so overwhelming and so emotionally draining, but when they arrived it was all worth it. One of my dogs just stood there looking at me and making this soft yelping noise, as if saying, "Is it really you?" She wasn't even excited – just overwhelmed, as I was. As I type this, I have a cat on my tummy and two dogs on my legs on my bed. The fact that I knew Louise at PETport had my back and was working tirelessly to get my animals to me was a relief during my experience. The Facebook group South Africans Emigrating with Pets also helped a lot, just to know that I wasn't alone. 



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PUG (-ology)



You'll most certainly recognise a Pug, but did you know that Pugs were brought from China to Europe in the sixteenth century and were popularised in Western Europe by the House of Orange of the Netherlands and the House of Stuart from Scotland and England?

In ancient times, Pugs were bred to be companions for ruling families in China. They were highly valued by Chinese Emperors, and the royal dogs were kept in luxury and guarded by soldiers. Pugs later spread to other parts of Asia. In Tibet, Buddhist monks kept Pugs as pets in their monasteries.

In the United Kingdom, in the nineteenth century, Queen Victoria developed a passion for Pugs which she passed on to other members of the Royal Family. The breed eventually became popular in other European countries as well. Pugs were painted by Goya in Spain, and in Italy they rode up front on private carriages, dressed in jackets and pantaloons that matched those of the coachman. They were used by the military to track animals and people and were also employed as guard dogs.

THE PUG PERSONALITY

Even though Pugs can be strong-willed, they're very rarely aggressive and are suitable for families with children. And while they can be stubborn, they normally want to please. They're



Loyal, loving, playful and funny little companion dogs

fairly laid-back dogs, not usually given to extensive barking, digging or chewing. Pugs tend to get along well with other dogs, and they can be very affectionate. They're most definitely dogs that need to sleep inside with their families.

These dogs are known for having big personalities in small bodies and are intelligent, happy-go-lucky, loyal, loving, affectionate with their families, playful, lively and funny. All in all, Pugs have a charming personality.


HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Since Pugs are brachycephalic and lack longer snouts and prominent skeletal brow ridges,

they're susceptible to eye injuries such as proptosis, scratched corneas, and painful entropion. They also have compact breathing passages, leaving many prone to breathing difficulties or unable to efficiently regulate their temperature through evaporation from the tongue by panting. Pugs that live a mostly sedentary life can be prone to obesity, though this is avoidable with regular exercise and a healthy diet. With the short muzzle, they don't do well in hot, humid weather and must be observed carefully for heatstroke. Pugs do tend to snore, again a result of the short muzzle. They often live to 14 or 15 years of age, and they range in weight from six to eight kilograms.

Fawn is the most common colour for a Pug, but you'll also find black, silver, and apricot-coloured Pugs. Grooming is important, both for the shedding from the dense coat and to keep facial wrinkles clean. A quick daily brushing usually suffices for the coat and a gentle wiping with a wet cloth for the face.

CELEBRITY PUGS

Celebrities who are crazy about their Pugs include Jessica Alba, Gerard James Butler, Billy Joel, Hugh Laurie, George Clooney, Paris Hilton, and Kelly Osbourne. Movies with Pugs include *Men in Black*, *The Adventures of Milo & Otis*, and *The Secret Life of Pets*. 

PUG RESCUE ADOPTABLES



ADY is an eleven-month-old beautiful, female Pug. She loves people and other small breed dogs.



INDIGO is a handsome, four-year-old male Pug. He is very playful but not good with cats.



BARKLEY is a very cute, three-year-old male Pug. He loves playing and splashing in shallow water.



STEVIE is an adorable, five-year-old male Pug who thinks he's still a puppy.



BETTY & BREE are a five-year-old bonded pair of female Pugs. They do need to be adopted together.

WHERE TO FIND THEM...

The purpose of Pug Rescue South Africa is to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome Pugs in need, irrespective of their age, breed standard or health. They also offer sanctuary to Pugs who are not adopted and to the many aged Pugs in their care. They rescue in excess of 240 Pugs a year. Pug Rescue take the matching process very seriously and their success has been the fact that they adopt Pugs into compatible homes - the right Pug in the right home. Visit their website on www.pugrescue.co.za for more information, or email info@pugrescue.co.za or adoption@pugrescue.co.za

MUST LOVE PUGS

BY CLAUDIA SHERRIN. PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN VAN TONDER PHOTOGRAPHY



Being a Pug owner comes with a lot of responsibility and rewards! My journey with these phenomenally charismatic little guys started just over 13 years ago. I remember the day we got our Zappa-Son like it was yesterday. He was the love of my life, and there's not a day that goes by that I don't think about my special boy.

These little guys are low maintenance when it comes to grooming. However, they shed, once a year, ALL year long! Depending on the energy level and daily activities your Pug enjoys, he might require regular nail trimming. I strongly

suggest getting them used to this at an early age, as they might be more resistant if it's only introduced into your routine later on in life.

One of the most recognisable physical characteristics of a Pug is their flat faces. Super cute, right? But special attention must be given to keeping their facial folds clean. Luckily, this is simple and easy to do. For us, a once-a-week wipe with organic cotton wool and vitamin E oil for their noses does the trick.

A Pug's sole purpose in life is to please. If you're energetic and enjoy spending time outside, your Pug will as well. Or if you're laid back and enjoy Netflix on the couch, you can be sure your furry buddy will be by your side enjoying it with you.

Pugs always let off gas! If you make the mistake of laughing when it happens, they'll think it makes you happy. Being the people pleasers they are, they'll make sure to try to be around you when passing gas again. It's kind of like their party

trick!

They're fairly easy to train and enjoy mentally stimulating activities. They can pick up weight very easily, so you need to watch what you feed them. Healthy treats are always a good option. Our Pugs love raw carrots.

In the last 13 years, I've been blessed to have the opportunity to rescue a Pug from Pug Rescue. It's been one of the most fulfilling things I've done in my life. Our little seven-year-old rescue, Leo, has fitted perfectly into our pack. Not a day goes by that he doesn't put a smile on our faces.

As a Pug owner, the best advice I could give to anyone looking to join the ranks of being a Pug owner is first to do as much research as you can on the breed. Make sure a Pug is the best possible breed for you and your lifestyle. Secondly, and most importantly, would be to visit Pug Rescue. Speak to their amazing team about the Pugs they have available. I promise it's a decision you'll be grateful for, for the rest of your life.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR MIYAN

BY TONI & DEREK

Miyan was rescued by Pug Rescue South Africa as she was being used as a breeding bitch in a puppy mill in Port Elizabeth. She'd been used to produce litter after litter and was never even given the dignity of seeing a vet when she was sick or sleeping inside. She was caged outside and left to fend for herself and her puppies before they were taken away from her time and time again to make her "owner" money.

Miyan needed quite serious veterinary care as well as emotional rehabilitation. Pug Rescue taught her to walk on grass for the first time, they taught her what a bowl was and that she didn't have to eat off the floor. Slowly, Miyan even learned to walk on a harness and lead and to walk up stairs. So many mundane

things were completely foreign to this three-year-old Pug.

I adopted Miyan and fell head over heels in love with her. She was such a sad Pug with a past that clearly haunted her. But it didn't take her long to realise that we loved her and that we'd never harm her.

Miyan blossomed, and watching her transition into a confident and happy girl was the most rewarding thing for me. Adopting an adult Pug who really needed a home and deserved the best life was the most amazing experience. I'll always give adult and senior Pugs a forever home and turn to Pug Rescue when looking for a new family member. What an incredible organisation, and what a special Pug they gifted me with.



Miyan has changed our family, and we hope we've changed her life as much as she's impacted ours.

WHY I CHOOSE TO PUG

BY RENATE ALBRECHT



My name is Renate, and I'm a self-confessed Pug addict. Six years ago, I was lucky enough to have received a little Pug

puppy as a gift. This is where my journey as a Pug mom began and most certainly didn't end. These peculiar-looking creatures have a way of creeping into one's heart and remaining there.

If you're in the market for a pet and are considering a Pug, let me break it down for you so you can assess whether or not a Pug is the right fit for you.

A Pug is perfect for someone who's looking for a loyal companion – this little ball of cute nonsense will follow you everywhere (including bathroom

visits). They'll sleep by your side and will truly idolise you as a human being. The Pug breed is also known for their quirky personalities, so if you're looking for a dog with character, then you'll love a Pug. While Pugs can have quirky bursts of energy, these little guys appreciate a good chill-out session and are more than happy to couch potato with you while you binge on a Netflix series. That being said, they're susceptible to becoming a bit pudgy, so you need to keep a close eye on their diet, and you need to commit to keeping them active or you'll have an obese Pug on your hands.

Something that all future Pug moms and dads should know is that these snorting creatures of joy are known to snore. While some Pugs have greater snores than their bites, it's important that you be aware of this, as lots of Pug parents do have their little Puglets sleeping nearby. Another thing you need to know upfront is that Pugs moult every

day, all day and for the entire year – their hair will be everywhere!

If you're ready to open your heart to a Pug, then I personally recommend paying the Pug Rescue a visit. They have an impressive grumble of Pugs to select from, so you'll be sure to find the Pug of your dreams. Also, fostering a little Pug in need will give you all the feels.

In June 2019, we adopted Cooper from Pug Rescue. This beautiful blonde bundle of joy came into our lives after my little black Pug had passed on. This was a bitter-sweet moment, because while my heart was breaking from the loss of my previous Pug, it was also bursting with joy (courtesy of Cooper).

Cooper saved my heart and continues to keep my heart fat, happy and healthy by serving me with daily doses of fishy Pug kisses, laughter and happiness that only a Pug parent can understand. Dear Cooper, thank you for saving my heart! I love you more than life itself.

OUR HARPER DREAM

BY THE MANN-CRIPPS FAMILY

Harper was rescued by Pug Rescue South Africa when they were alerted to a tiny Pug puppy who was purchased as a Christmas gift. She'd subsequently been dropped multiple times by the children in the family, and during one of the drops, her radius and ulna had been fractured. Being the festive season, her owners were going away on holiday and didn't have time to take her to the vet after her leg was injured. They dropped her off at boarding kennels and went on their holiday.

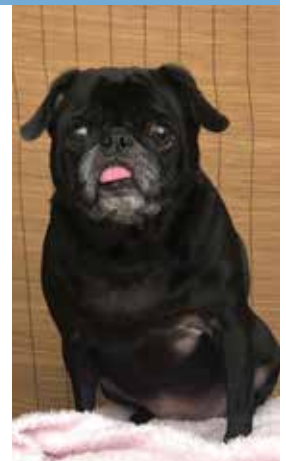
Fortunately, the boarding facility noticed how much pain this Pug puppy was in and took her to an emergency vet. The severe fracture was then discovered, and the owners thought it would be cheaper to purchase a new

puppy than do surgery on Harper's fracture caused by their children.

Pug Rescue was signed over ownership of this little girl. They had the top specialists correct her fractures and soon Harper was on the road to recovery. She was finally safe and loved and would never be placed in a dangerous situation again. Once healed, we were so fortunate to be given the opportunity to adopt little Harper Dream, who joined our family of three other rescued Pugs.

Harper Dream is sassy, intelligent, and her mom's soul dog (soul mate in a dog). She was always meant to be in our family, and words cannot explain how much we adore her. We're so grateful to Pug Rescue SA

for saving Harper from the miserable situation she'd have had to endure with her previous owners. We truly believe Harper is the perfect example as to why families with young children shouldn't own Pug puppies but rather consider adopting adult Pugs whose growth plates are closed, bones are stronger and overall are less fragile.



LIVING WITH PUGS

BY MUNUNE KHOZA

An unknown dog lover once so beautifully and accurately opined - "A true friend leaves paw prints on your heart". This is the most apt description of my beautiful journey with my little boys, Georgie Zamdela and Barker Haines. Five years ago, I went to Pug Rescue South Africa with a two-Pug shaped hole in my



heart, and after motivating and being vetted, was blessed with the privilege of becoming a Pug mama to these two.

They say Pugs are "shadow dogs" – they want to be with

you all the time. When the boys came home, I couldn't believe how much this rang true. Whether I was working, whether I was entertaining guests, or just having a swim in my little pool, the gents were and are always at my side. We've been together through new and left jobs, new and left boyfriends but always the joy of my life. Even their grandparents, my own parents, love these handsome gentlemen.

The boys are getting a little older now. They still have that beautiful spirit, but the walks are a little shorter and a little slower. I guess that's what it is to be old men. But the most special thing these dogs have done for me in the unprecedented time that was lockdown was offer a truly special



kind of companionship. Their snorts, farts, cuddles, snoring and clumsy play time kept me sane and made me feel loved throughout. The love of a Pug is like nothing else - and the privilege to love one is even more special.

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Practical Dosing Guidelines:

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- 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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- aggression 30c** animals reacting from fear based experiences, resulting in aggressive behaviour.
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- bites 30c** serious bites, i.e. spider, scorpion, snake & dog bite.
- boils & abscesses 6c** boils, abscesses & ulcers (can push out splinters).
- calming 30c** general calmative - helps reduce anxiety & cope with stressful situations.
- cystitis 30c** acute bladder infection, frequent burning urination - often involuntary.
- dermatitis complex 12c** general skin conditions, incl. mange, dermatitis, eczema, dry unhealthy stinging, itching & burning skin.
- d.v.c. 30c (diarrhoea, vomiting & cramping)** gastro-intestinal symptoms & dehydration.
- fracture/osteo 30c** bone & teeth maintenance - repair of fractured bones.
- haematonic 6c** general blood tonic. Excellent in recuperative situations e.g. post biliary & post-op.
- hayfever 6c** itchy eyes & nose, sneezing with watery discharges.
- injury 6c** bruises, sprains, muscle strain, nerve & crush injuries. Shock of accident.
- kennel cough & cold 30c** chest symptoms, including cough, cold & fever.
- muco drainol 30c** drains thick mucous from chest, nose, eyes and ears.
- otitis 30c (ears)** general ear conditions; ear canker, otitis externa, pain & itching.
- ringworm/fungal 12c** skin & hoof conditions caused by ringworm fungi; itching, irritation & hair loss.
- renal 12c** kidney & bladder issues of a more chronic nature.
- snuffles complex 12c (cats)** specifically to treat the associated symptoms & conditions of cat rhinotracheitis.
- sting & itch 30c** insect stings & bites. Itchy skin of an allergic nature.
- throat 30c** sore, inflamed, infected throats.
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The festive season just got a whole lot tastier for dogs with Montego's extended range of trendy and tantalising treats. With exciting new variants and flavours all wrapped up in a new look to match the goodness inside – and it's a pretty big woof! Bags O' Wags treats are still available in the beloved original ranges of Crunchies (for dogs that prefer crispy biscuits) and Chewies (for dogs who want something to savour), as well as three delectable new variants – Munchies, Squishies, and Puppy Trainers. Because we believe all dogs deserve only the most wagtastic treats, the Bags O' Wags range now also comes in a whopping 14 new flavour variations, including Juicy Boerewors, Yummy Peanut Butter, Succulent Spare Rib,



Wholesome Original, Om Nom Nicely Iced, Delectable Beef Flavoured Marrow Bones, Fried Bacon, Grilled Chicken, Smoked BBQ, Roast Beef, Refreshing Mint Flavoured Dental Tubes, Scrumptious Peanut Butter Flavoured Toffees, Strawberry & Cream, Condensed Milk & Caramel, and Chocolate & Vanilla! Available at supermarkets, pet and vet stores countrywide. Visit

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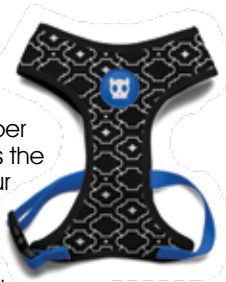


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YOUR DOG WILL LOVE MARLTONS SEMI-MOIST TUBS

Has your pooch tried Marltons Semi-Moist Treat Tubbs yet? Treat your fur kid to four mouth-watering flavours, from Biltong Strips, Marrow Bone Sausage Rolls, Peanut Butter Bars to Chicken Assorted Bites. Suitable for all dogs and packed in convenient tubs, your dog will absolutely enjoy these treats, and they're perfect for training too. Available at most local supermarkets, pet, vet and co-op stores. Don't forget to follow Marltons on

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IT'S TIME FOR P-MAGIC

P-Magic is a new pet waste removal powder designed to easily and safely discard pet waste, such as loose droppings and urine from tiles, wooden floors, carpets and upholstery. Within 60 seconds it kills up to 99.9% of the germs, replaces odours with a fragrance, and locks the liquid into a gel that can be easily removed with a dustpan. Users simply sprinkle P-Magic powder over the pet waste, allow it to soak for 60 seconds and then scoop it up. For dry solid droppings, sprinkle P-Magic over the heap and scoop it up to dispose. Traditional cleaning methods allow viruses and pathogens to be dispersed in the water and environment. P-Magic's concept of "containment

at the source" involves catching the virus and pathogen at the source, thereby containing any spread of a possible contaminant or disease. P-Magic is non-toxic, decomposes fully and is safe for humans and pets. Visit www.thepmagic.com/za for more information, or email: petra@thepmagic.com.



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THE BLUE BUNDU BRIGADE (Durban)



BAILEY is a male Africanis-type dog who's well socialised with other dogs and very good with children. He has a wonderful, playful, placid nature and loves human companionship. Bailey would make a wonderful addition to your family.



BUDDY is a two-to-three-year-old male, neutered dog with an amazing personality. He's placid, intelligent and often helps with cleaning at the kennels. Buddy is well socialised with other dogs and good with children. Cats: unsure.



TOBY is a very special boy. He's eight-to-nine months old and waiting for his special home. Toby has a gentle, loving nature and is well socialised with dogs, loves children, and when last exposed to cats, he had no issues.



LUCY is a gentle-natured girl who loves human companionship. At just under one year old, she's well socialised with other dogs and good with children. Cats: unsure. All she needs now is a family to call her own.

PHOENIX ANIMAL CARE AND TREATMENT (PACT) (Durban)



JETT was picked up after being thrown out of a car on a road in Phoenix. This beautiful boy is a six-year-old Labrador. He's been to so many adoption days, went to foster homes, then kennels, then back to foster homes, but he's not had any luck finding his furever home yet. Jett is a very well-behaved dog who just loves getting treats, kisses, and cuddles. He gets along with other dogs and children.



BARNEY is a five-year-old Jack Russell cross male. He has the most beautiful brown, almond-shaped eyes and such a sweet demeanour; he can steal your heart in an instant. All he needs is a home with a family who can give him as much love as he will give them.



ALLEY is a two-year-old cross-breed who lived a life on the streets for years before being rescued. She's lost one eye, but that doesn't stop her from being the quirky doggy that she is! Alley needs a home where she can be loved and cuddled and where she'll continue to blossom.



LEWIS is a two-year-old Labrador male. He's such a goof-ball and just wants to play and be with his hoomans. He has so much energy, so he'd suit an active family and would do best with a fur mate or two. Please consider opening your home to this amazing boy.

DOGTOWN (Johannesburg)



ZACKY — I'm a sophisticated boy who'd love to sit on your lap and be made a fuss of. I get along with other dogs, and I'm not opposed to the idea of sharing my home with a cat. Don't be fooled by the grey on my muzzle — I'm still a puppy at heart and love to run around and play with my humans.



WIND — I'm an older boy with a quirk or two, but nothing that can't be fixed with a couple of treats and some patience. I haven't had great experiences with humans, but I'm ready for that to change. I need to be an only dog, but I promise to be your best friend for life if you're willing to give me a chance.



ROXY — Hey, hey — Roxy here! Man, am I glad to meet you. I'm a really easy-going girl, and I love to be out and about and connect with my person. I love adventures, and I think having a family of my own would be exactly what I need.



BRUNO — Goofy is my middle name, for obvious reasons. I'm a really fun guy with tons of personality. I get along with other dogs and I love people — love, love, love them! I'm not a fan of cats, but please come and meet me and let me show you what a ray of sunshine I am.

WHERE TO FIND THEM...

PHOENIX ANIMAL CARE AND TREATMENT (PACT) – (Durban)

JETT, BARNEY, ALLEY & LEWIS

Phoenix Animal Care and Treatment (PACT) was established in March 2012 as a Non-Profit Organisation dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming animals in the Durban area. Throughout the lockdown period, PACT has also helped township animals and their owners with food and grocery items. PACT also strongly advocates for sterilisation as it's the root cause of unwanted litters destined for homeless lives under unfathomable conditions. The adoption process at PACT includes an adoption form, home inspection, and adoption fee which covers sterilisation, vaccinations, deworming, tick and flea treatment, together with microchipping. To foster or adopt, WhatsApp Neeri on 0730054275 or Nevita on 0617061119, or email nevitarpact@gmail.com

THE BLUE BUNDU BRIGADE (Durban)

BAILEY, BUDDY, TOBY & LUCY

The Blue Bundu Brigade is based in the heart of Durban, KZN, and they cover an extensive area in Durban and surrounding areas. BBB, as known to most, started after many people in the community of Durban were looking for three lost power breed dogs who'd escaped from their home after a gate had been accidentally left open. Two of the three much-loved dogs were found, but Blue, a beautiful Boerboel, remained missing. After very long hours of extensive searching in difficult terrain, Blue was finally found 10 days later. This led to the birth of BBB, who rescue, rehabilitate and rehome dogs and cats. For more information or to adopt, contact Karen on 062 436 8810, Shelly on 084 274 1969, or Maria on 072 262 2795.

DOGTOWN SA (Johannesburg)

ZACKY, WIND, ROXY & BRUNO

At Dogtown SA, our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome. Nestled in the Hennops mountains is the most remarkable sanctuary for dogs who've lost their families or have been rescued from dire situations. Every day the dedicated team at Dogtown provide individual care to each of these dogs in a peaceful, tranquil setting while they wait for their forever homes. There's often a misconception that all rescue dogs are going to be damaged in some way, but that's simply not true. There are plenty of wonderful dogs at Dogtown SA who, through no fault of their own, have found themselves homeless and are just hoping for a second chance at a new life in a loving home. For more information, visit www.barkingmad.co.za, or to adopt, contact adopt@dogtownsa.org. Telephone Dogtown SA on 076 044 1979 for any enquiries.

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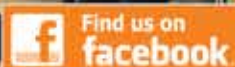
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