

Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers



Dachshund (-ology)

Energetic, devoted companions

**A Tribute to
YANKA-KWANITA**
A dog who saved and enriched lives

10

Great reasons to take your dog on holiday...

**TOP TIPS
For choosing
A PET SITTER**

NEW YEAR'S Resolutions

How many will you tick off?

**SAY
NO
to fireworks!**

Your dog is talking to you
Are you listening?

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PET BRANDS



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Canine Zone

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Dog talk



The end of 2024 is upon us and what a year it's been. For one thing, it's been a year when shelters have seen an increase in animal cruelty and abandonment. The reasons for so many dogs being handed over to shelters include divorce, immigration and people not being able to afford food or veterinary care for their pets. In some cases, people who love their pets deeply have had no other choice but to hand their dogs to a shelter in desperation because they simply couldn't afford them, or they had to move to a non-pet-friendly apartment or retirement village. This is just so tragic.

The following is on my wish list for 2025:

1. That breeder and kennel registrations are ONLY done after proper investigation by KUSA and other organisations to ensure that puppy mills are not being registered! I am sure there are many animal lovers in this country who would be more than happy to do a kennel check and to report their findings.
2. That there is a database of animal cruelty offenders (including people who abandon their dogs at the last minute to immigrate when they'd rather pay to take their furniture with.)
3. That no pet stores sell puppies from backyard breeders and puppy mills. It would be great if it was banned outright in South Africa, but until then, pet store owners should do the right thing. Thankfully there are very

few left now who do sell puppies and kittens.

4. That rescue organisations and shelters all work together, without politics, with the main focus being on the well-being of our animals.
5. That fireworks are banned outright in South Africa.

A dog brings warmth, companionship, and unconditional love to a house, transforming it into a home. Their playful energy, loyalty, and presence create a sense of comfort and security. With a dog, every corner feels more inviting, and the bond shared fosters a deeper sense of belonging and happiness. Recently I was under the weather for a while and my boy never left my side – dog healing at it's best.

Learning as much as possible about your dog, including their diet, health, and behaviour, is crucial for ensuring their well-being and happiness. Understanding their specific dietary needs helps prevent health issues, while a balanced diet supports energy and longevity. Being aware of their health allows for early detection of potential problems, ensuring timely treatment. Knowing your dog's behaviour patterns strengthens your bond, enabling better communication and reducing stress for both you and your pet. By staying informed, you can provide a safe, comfortable environment and promote a fulfilling, long-lasting relationship with your dog.

I'd like to close by thanking all our Canine Zoners for their ongoing support. Canine Zone is growing stronger by the day, and we have you to thank for that – whether you regularly buy our printed magazine, download or receive our free digital copy or are interactive on our Facebook page. I'd also like to thank all our wonderful sponsors and advertisers who not only support us, but who do so much for animal welfare.

Have a wonderful festive season and happy, healthy and safe 2025!

Sharon

Canine Zone

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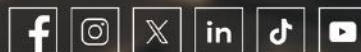
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Connecting each decision and action at Montego is the golden thread of our commitment to innovation. From pioneering new products and advancing formulations to infrastructure upgrades and investment in state-of-the-art machinery, innovation allows us to consistently deliver high-quality products to pets and the families who love them.



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UPFRONT

SWISSPORT OPENS PET LOUNGE IN JOHANNESBURG



Swissport has unveiled a dedicated area for the servicing of unaccompanied pets at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport in South Africa. Designed to enhance the travel experience, the Pet Lounge underscores Swissport's commitment to animal welfare and operational excellence.

Swissport International AG, the global leader in airport ground services and air cargo handling,

has unveiled its new Swissport Pet Lounge at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport in South Africa. Away from the bustle of the general air cargo warehouse, the new area for the import and export of unaccompanied pets offers a calm environment, significantly improving their travel experience. With water service, air conditioning, and calming music, Swissport puts a special focus on a stress-free

experience for animals.

"The Swissport Pet Lounge sets a new benchmark in animal handling at an airport in South Africa, making the stay for our special travellers as relaxing as possible," says Khangzi Khoza, CEO of Swissport South Africa. "The facility reflects our commitment to delivering services that benefit the animals and our customers from airlines and forwarders alike."

The new location features a dedicated acceptance area for the checking of the animals and their travel documentation, complemented by two separate rooms for pets waiting for their flight, their owner, or a specialised animal handling agent. The Swissport Pet Lounge is managed by a dedicated team trained to handle animals. Complying with the International Air Transport Association's Live Animals Regulations (IATA LAR), they ensure the highest level of care and safety. Swissport collaborates closely with the South African State Veterinary Service to conduct thorough checks on all imported and exported animals.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR PETS

Not every airline flying to South Africa allows pets to travel with their owners in the cabin. Passengers who want to fly with their pet should consult a specialised animal handling agent who can provide a crate, process the necessary travel documentation, and inform passengers about potential quarantine regulations

in various countries. Swissport works closely with these agents and ensures that pets are brought on time to the aircraft or to the agent delivering them to their owner in South Africa.

In 2023, Swissport International AG provided best-in-class airport ground services for some 232 million airline passengers (2022: 186 million) and handled roughly 4.7 million tons of air freight (2022: 4.8 million) at 115 air cargo centres worldwide. Several of its warehouses have been certified for pharmaceutical logistics by IATA's CEIV Pharma and by the British MHRA. At the end of December 2023, the world's leader in airport ground services and air cargo handling, with currently around 60,000 employees, was active at 286 airports in 44

countries on six continents.

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Want to make a HUGE difference for thousands of animals and their owners for as little as R30 a month? Look no further – our Club 10 000 is an easy and affordable way to create massive waves of change.

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risk areas where animal crimes grow into crimes against people.

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PETS - A PRIORITY IN YOUR FIRE SAFETY PLANS

Worrying about all the terrible things that can happen around the house is a sure-fire way to give yourself an ulcer, but preparing for the worst is extremely important to ensure a happy ending should the unthinkable occur. The Pet Food Industry Association of Southern Africa (PFI) urges you to ensure you are geared to react quickly should a fire break out within your home, and implores you further to consider your pets in this plan because they are just as vulnerable to injury and death from flames and smoke inhalation.

Consider the below seven pointers to safeguard your home:

1. Actions such as jumping onto stoves or turning appliances on are the number one cause of fires started by pets. As such, impeccable training is suggested to try and prevent animals jumping up where they should not be. Do not tempt pets by

leaving tasty foods out when you're not able to keep an eye on them.

If you're able to protect or remove stove knobs while out/away, do so.

2. In a country such as South Africa, we often find ourselves in the dark due to power outages – be extra observant in these moments, as pets can knock over the candles or gas lamps that are in use to light the home. Better yet, opt for flame-free options, such as solar-powered lamps or flameless candles.

3. Always ensure open flames, braais, etc. are extinguished properly.

4. In winter especially take note of pets around heaters and fires, to ensure they do not interfere or lie too close, which could lead to a burn for themselves or start a full-blown fire.

5. Glass water dishes on wooden floors can magnify sun rays and start a fire – rather use bowls with

alternative materials, especially if placed on flammable surfaces in the sun.

6. Always be conscious of fire hazards around the house and resolve them before they become an issue.
7. Ensuring your home is pest-free will also limit your risk of fires, as rodents have been known to chew through wires, resulting in a fire.

IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE...

In the event of a fire, consider your pets in your evacuation plans. Consider the below to give your pets the best chance of survival –

- If at all possible, give pets an escape route, such as a pet door. For larger pets that need to be confined, choose their confined areas close to exit doors and keep spare keys for these doors

so that access can be made as easily as possible.

- Smoke detectors are great for fire-prone areas and to give warning as early as possible.
- Note your pets' favourite nap areas and hiding places, in case they make use of these in the event of a fire.
- Have stickers made to notify first responders to the presence (and type and number) of pets on the property. Remember to keep these up to date.
- Collars and leads kept near a door may assist first responders at the scene to lead pets that may be waiting at the door to safety.
- If your dogs stay outside, ensure their shelter is clear and away from flammable substances.
- Always have your pets micro-chipped so that they can be identified should they flee the scene.



TOP TIPS FOR ADOPTING A RESCUE

With animal shelters bursting at the seams with unwanted pets, the choice to adopt is an admirable one and one that will not support the highly unethical practice of backyard breeding and puppy mill breeding, as is often the case when buying from pet shops. This does not, however, negate the responsibility that comes with welcoming a new animal into your life. It is a lifelong commitment (even if only based on their lifespan) after all, so it is a decision that should be considered before it is put into action.

The Pet Food Industry Association of Southern Africa (PFI) urges potential new pet owners to consider the following before deciding on their new companion.

- Consider your lifestyle and home environment and adopt according to what suits you. Also consider and research the natural needs of your potential new pet – meeting these needs, which do change with each life stage, is crucial to ensuring a happy, well-balanced pet and will limit the likelihood of behavioural issues arising. Think about their social, grooming, training, playing, exercising, nutritional and shelter needs and then ask yourself if you'll be able to meet these on a daily basis.
- Consider your finances to ensure that you can afford to care for a new pet – this will not only include shelter and bedding requirements, grooming, health-care (which pet insurance can significantly assist with) and the costs associated with preparing your property for a new pet, but also includes being able to afford a good quality pet diet. Members of the PFI span across a wide variety of price brackets and by choosing a PFI member brand you can be assured that you are feeding your pets the best quality product to suit your pocket.
- Adopt according to your home dynamic. For example, if you have children – and especially if adopting an older pet – it is imperative that you confirm that the pet is comfortable around kids.
- Be prepared to make provision for the expected lifespan of your

new companion animal – these vary according to species, breed and living conditions. A responsibly cared for dog or cat will most likely live for one to two decades. Other pets, like parrots, may even outlive you. For the duration of their life you will need to consider them in all the plans you make, such as ensuring they are cared for should you wish to go away on holiday.

- Be intent on exercising responsible pet ownership. Consider your new pet's temperament and history and manage any "quirks" to limit stress on your pet and those around you. If, for example, your rescue dog was taken from his litter too early, he may not play nicely with other dogs – be conscious of this and try to train him to behave in an appropriate way with the help of a professional behaviourist, or aid in the management of interactions to ensure they do not escalate into fights.
- Always ensure that your pets, especially dogs, are securely



enclosed in your property and that their environment is free from potential hazards. Provide adequate shelter from the elements, such as shade during hot days and warmth during colder months. A dog that stays inside at night is safer and warmer and has also proven to be a deterrent against criminals.

- Ensure that your pet is sterilised, visits the veterinarian for annual inoculations as well as any other ad hoc health concerns and that you provide preventative care for parasite control, such as ticks and fleas.
- Some people shy away from a shelter dog because of their mixed breed nature, thinking thoroughbreds are a "purer" form of dog, when in actual fact thoroughbreds are a consequence of human intervention in dog reproduction. Thought of this way you could argue that they're further removed from the original dog species. It is, however, true that understanding the breed makeup of your dog can give you some certainty of the type of temperament your new dog will have (remembering that all animals are individuals).
- Don't rule out kill shelters – you personally may not support the idea of them but there are many reasons why this process is necessary. By giving them a chance you could be saving a life. Older dogs have often been given up after many years with a single family, upsetting their routine and security. They're often already trained, calmer and require less regular exercise (depending on their age).
- Finally, be patient, understanding and consistent with your new pet – rescue pets have often been through neglect or abuse, so it's expected that they may need a little more love and care to settle in to their new home and build trust with their new family. Be patient with them and make every new experience as positive as possible by using a calm voice, treats for good behaviour and always remaining consistent with the feedback that you give them. Remember that no other person is in a position to make the above decisions for you and you, too, should not make these decisions for someone else. Buying pets as gifts is therefore never a good idea.



Your Photos



My baby, **DUKE** - named after Marmaduke the movie. The most loving and expressive dog I've ever had. He is a lockdown baby, just turned 4 this year, but is still a puppy at heart. - **NADIA STRYDOM**

My **BEN**, the best boy in the world - adoption is always the best. - **JASMIEN BARRON**



Another tough day for **BUBBLES, TYLER, BONNIE & HOPE**. - **DEBORA HART**



My Christmas girly **SKYE**. - **ILSE ANGEL SMIT**



WATSON (on the left) will celebrate his second Christmas in a home this year. He's a joyful pup who wishes he could open all the presents for us. - **MARY-ANNE VAN DER BYL**

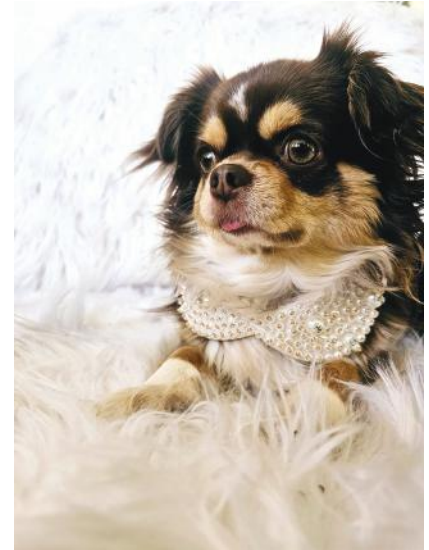


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MADEMOISELLE LULA BELL, my gorgeous girl.
- LINDI PIETERSE



My Beach Babe, **LILLY**, just loves summer and if allowed will swim in winter too. - **DESIRÉ WELMAN**



This is **MIA**, my silver Yorkie. She used to love getting hold of my mom's dentures and most of the time my mom wasn't even aware of it! - **RUA BOSHOFF**

TUSCHKA, aka Truschie, loves playing model. Her clothing in this photo was made by COCO + MO.
- **LUCELLE BRITZ**



Little **MILA**, the Xmas Elf.
- **LUCELLE BRITZ**



Help!



GOT A QUESTION?

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



HUMPHREY LOVES LIZARDS!

We moved into a new house where there are tons of lizards in the garden. Our ten-year-old Pug is obsessed with chasing them and actually eating them. Sometimes he throws up afterwards. How do we stop Humphrey from chasing lizards and is it dangerous for him to eat them?

– FIONA CUNNARD

JULIE SAYS – It's good to hear that Humphrey is still so active. However, eating lizards can be dangerous and is certainly not in his interest, healthwise.

I suggest you provide Humphrey with forms of enrichment to keep him occupied, and as a



diversion from the lizards. Provide him with something that is interactive and possibly moves. There are many behavioural toys on the market. Depending on what he likes, you could attempt to make your own. An example is placing balls on a six pan muffin tray, so

Humphrey has to learn to move the ball to get the treat which is placed under the ball. You could use a fluffy bathroom mat to hide tiny treats for Humphrey to find. Using his nose to get the treats expends energy in a positive way. You could also take Humphrey on a short structured walk, giving him time to sniff and smell.



GRANDPA MOVING IN



My elderly dad will be moving in with us soon and we have a rather boisterous sixteen-month-old German Shepherd cross named Walker. He likes to snuggle up to people, put his paws on laps and although he doesn't jump, he can be quite pushy to get in the door first, etc. He's also very food motivated and will nudge at you for food. As my dad uses a walker and is frail, what's the best way to integrate our new family dynamic safely and happily. My dad loves Walker, and I think the companionship will be wonderful. – TARYN KATLENHOVEN

GORDON SAYS – Puppies generally can be quite boisterous, especially if they become overexcited. New or unfamiliar items, like your dad's walker, can also trigger unwanted behaviours – barking or chasing around the walker, for example. At sixteen months old your puppy (teenager) is already fairly large, and an excitement-related "collision" with your dad would not be idyllic. However, the fact that the dog is very food motivated can in this instance work to your advantage.

The first thing to do is to desensitise the dog to the walker, then to dad and the walker, and finally to dad walking with the walker. Start by placing the walker in a quiet area and allow the dog to sniff at it, then place some tasty treats around the base of the walker and allow the dog to eat them – you are teaching the dog that the walker equals something nice, i.e. the treats. Once the dog is comfortable around the walker you can start moving it gently around on the floor, sprinkling treats nearby for the dog to make the association that

the "moving walker" is also something positive and rewarding. Gradually work towards dad walking with the walker and positively rewarding the dog with treats if he behaves and ignores the walker. Once the dog is comfortable around dad and the walker, the treat rewards can be phased out and replaced with verbal praise for displaying good behaviour – random treat rewards will help to reinforce the desired behaviour.

A similar process can be used to teach the dog to be calm and well behaved around dad in general. Get dad to sit on the couch and call the dog to him. When the dog reaches dad, dad must give him a sit (or down) command and reward the dog with treats when he obeys – this will train the dog that when he behaves calmly around dad, good things happen (the treats appear). This positive reinforcement training can be used to teach the dog all good manners and behaviour. Remember, a dog will repeat a behaviour he finds rewarding and will disregard a behaviour that is not rewarding.

LONELY FREDDY

I have a very sweet SharPei who is now just over a year old. I would like to start taking him to dog parks or arrange play dates. He never did go to puppy socialisation but I feel he needs doggy friends. How should I go about this? Can I do it myself or do I need the help of a behaviourist? On average – what does a behaviourist charge and for how long a session and how many sessions would I need with Freddy to socialise him? I often see recommendations for behaviourists but would like to know the average cost so I can budget for this. I'm based in Linden. – WENDY MALAN

JULIE SAYS – Dogs are social creatures and it's wonderful if they have friends who they can socially interact and engage with. However, because the impressionable period for socialising has been missed, I advise you to seek the assistance of an accredited experienced dog trainer. You will probably have to attend group sessions, to start,

without pressure for Freddy, so that he feels comfortable in the presence of other social dogs. Behaviourist fees vary as there is no set tariff. A behaviourist needs to be affiliated and registered to a recognised body, such as SABCAP, which is presently the only registering body in South Africa.

Pet owners consult with the behaviourist by appointment. The behaviourist needs to take a full history to establish the problem behaviour and the motivation therefor.

Unless Freddy is showing signs of



behaviour problems (not just a lack of socialisation), then a reputable dog training school should work for him. Reputable dog training schools allow the social dogs to play and interact in a positive way.

GETTING OUR DOGS BEACH READY



We are moving to the South Coast early next year and are taking our little Jack Russell girl, Mila, and Labrador boy, Cesar, with. They've never seen a beach before, so I was wondering what's the best way to introduce them. With a long retractable lead on a very quiet beach to start? If they go into the sea, is it dangerous for them to swallow sea water or too much sand? If they are scared of the waves, noise and water, how do we introduce them to the joys of the beach? We can't wait to have fun with them!
– LANI MCDONALD

GORDON SAYS – I am sure the family and the dogs are going to have many hours of fun and enjoyment on the beach. The truly short answer to your question - "how do we introduce them to the joys of the beach?" is simply...slowly.

Environmental changes, like relocating, is as stressful for our dogs as it is for us. Introduce the dogs to the new home and garden, etc. and let them first get comfortable with their new surroundings. Now you can start being more adventurous and go to the beach. Having never experienced the beach before, all the new sounds, scents, sand, etc. may be very daunting initially, so keep them on lead. A long lead would be beneficial, but I would avoid retractable leads – they are not that secure if a dog bolts. Make sure you are armed with a bag full of the dogs' favourite treats.

Start in a quiet area with the least number of distractions as possible, and casually start walking along the beach as far from the water as is comfortable for the dogs. Always remember to keep the temperature of the sand in mind – beach sand can get extremely hot under the dogs' paws. As the dogs become more

at ease with the sand, you can venture towards the water; reward them with a treat if they show no apprehension towards the water's edge. If they are not sure, move away and reassure them that there is nothing to worry about. Repeat this process – it may take a number of visits to the beach – until they are comfortable approaching the water. Reward them with a treat when they display the behaviour you want. Only once they are a hundred per cent relaxed at entering the water should you allow them off lead.

Remember to take clean fresh water and a bowl when you take the dogs to the beach and try to avoid letting them drink from rock pools and the like. Sea water contains salt and if the dogs drink too much they can quickly become dehydrated. The same goes for picking up driftwood and other "exciting things" on the beach. Often, these things have soaked up quite a bit of sea water and can have a similar toxic effect on the dogs. When you return from the beach, wash or hose down your dogs well to get rid of the very fine sand particles that have gotten into their coats and could cause skin irritations.

Your Dog is Talking to You – Are You Listening ?



Communication starts when we listen and observe – not when we speak! Dogs communicate with humans in a number of different ways; however, the two most common are through vocalisation and body language.

Barking (vocalising) is one of the primary ways in which dogs communicate with each other and with humans too. There are a host of different messages, emotions and specific feelings that are portrayed through barking, excitement, anxiety, happiness and territorial barking, to name but a few.

A dog's sense of hearing is far greater than ours and they can hear sounds at a much higher frequency than we can, so what we often perceive to be "barking at nothing," is frequently a response to some-

thing we cannot hear or are unaware of.

They will often bark to gain our attention or to illicit a response from us. Generally, this type of barking is borne out of boredom and frustration due to a lack of exercise and good daily stimulation. Dogs do not recognise good or bad behaviour, only the consequence of the behaviour at the time. If the dog is barking to get your attention and you yell at him – guess what! – he got your attention, so he will know in the future to bark whenever he wants your attention.

TONE

The tone of a dog's bark is also something to be aware of. A high-pitch screeching bark normally indicates overexcitement or frustration. This type



Reading and understanding a dog's body language and signals can be very complex

of bark, if not corrected, can easily result in the dog becoming overaroused and displaying reactive or aggressive behaviour. A deep guttural bark, often heard in territorial behaviour, is usually an indicator from the dog he is aware of your or an adversary's presence. A scared or fearful bark will often be accompanied with body postures like a lowered head, puffy cheeks and lowered, flat ears.

BODY LANGUAGE

Using body language is the most common – and often the most missed – form of communication dogs use to “speak” to us. Emotions, moods and feelings are all relayed to us by our dogs' body language.

Unfortunately, we often fail to recognise or understand the message. When reading body language do not over interpret just one body signal or movement. Always consider the whole environment and try to establish what stimuli may be causing the dog to display a particular behaviour or body gesture.

Some of the more common body language displayed by our dogs and the possible reasons for it are :

Anxiety/Stress

- Frequent blinking
- Yawning
- Excessive panting
- Head turns
- Dilated pupils
- Hard or soft eyes
- Eye diversion
- Lip licking
- Panting
- Furrowed brows

Fear/Uncertainty

Many of the signals displayed by an anxious dog can also be seen in a fearful dog, including :

- Lowered head
- Squinty eyes
- Lowered ears
- Drooling

- Cowering
- Tail tucked between the hind legs
- Avoiding eye contact

Happy Dog

When a dog is happy and contented, he will have a:

- Relaxed body
- Open mouth
- Soft eyes
- Bottom teeth visible
- Relaxed facial muscles (around eyes and mouth)


Tails

A particularly important misconception to be aware of, is that a wagging tale is not necessary indicative of a happy dog. A circular wagging movement, often referred to as a helicopter tale, is a show of being happy. A slow left to right “wag” is often a sign of conflict – the dog is not sure of the intentions of the person or other dog he may be engaging with. With this tale movement the dog's behaviour could go either way and result in either a pleasant or a reactive outcome.

Aggressive/Reactive Dog

- Growling (warning)
- Raised upper lip; teeth exposed
- Hard staring eyes
- Stiff tail, often erect
- Hackles up
- Ears forward
- Standing on tip toes (making his body look bigger)

Never ignore a dog's growl, it is the dog's way of telling you he is unhappy with what you are doing. Remember, a dog will not bite if a growl is sufficient warning.

Reading and understanding a dog's body language and signals can be very complex. However, reading and understanding the basic messages your dog is relaying to you, and responding accordingly, will help forge a strong and happy bond between you both. 

New Year's Resolutions



RESOLUTIONS FOR DOGS

1. I will eat less and exercise more. Too many nights on the couch, too many dog biscuits and too little time running around the garden and going for walks has made me a little, well, fluffier. I don't think the old "he's-just-big-boned" excuse will work anymore. I resolve to bug my owner to take me out for a walk several times a week and play frisbee with me in the garden.
2. I will beg less. I've got begging down to a fine art and my mom and dad are putty in my paws – but it sure is demeaning. I promise to reserve the begging for worthwhile things, like going out to the park and T-bone steaks.
3. I will recognise the difference between furniture and trees. I promise not to treat the furniture and walls the way I do trees and shrubs in the garden to do my business. It drives my owners batty and has no lasting benefit for me (they clear away the scent almost as fast as I can "deposit" it).
4. I'll stay out of the cat's litter box. I vow to resist the urge to snoop around the cat's private lavatory – even though it's a lot of fun and really makes her go nuts.
5. I won't try to bite the vet anymore. I'll remember that the vets and their staff are just trying to help in their own, inscrutable way, although they really know how to push my buttons with those needles!
6. I won't steal food as much. I won't go out of my way to steal food, although all bets are off if they make it really easy for me.
7. I'll do better "holding it" until morning. When nature calls, I'll steel my resolve to wait to get let out in the morning, unless special considerations apply. I'll decide what those special considerations are.
8. I'll bark at the postman, refuse collectors and other dogs going for a walk less. Even though it works to put them in their place, I'll try not to exercise my authority over them and other

How many will you tick off?

delivery people, although my self-esteem does get a boost when they retreat.

9. I'll tolerate those homemade bandanas more. My owner has gone to a lot of trouble to make these things, so I'll just put up with the way they feel and the taunts of the other dogs.
10. I will stop trying to find the few remaining clean pieces of carpet in the house when I am about to throw up.
11. I will not eat another animal's poop.
12. I will not lick my human's face after eating animal poop or dead birds.
13. I will not eat any more socks and then redeposit them in the backyard after processing.
14. I will not chew my human's toothbrush and not tell them.
15. I will not walk under the big dog when he is peeing.
16. I will not steal Mom's underwear and dance all over the backyard with it.
17. I will not play tug-o'-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.
18. I will remember that my head does not belong in the refrigerator.
19. I will not roll my toys behind the fridge.
20. I will not destroy anything that my family seems to love, like a cell phone, remote control or wallet.

RESOLUTIONS FOR PAW PARENTS

- Promise to take your dog for one long walk at least three times a week.
- Resolve to give back to other pups in need by donating time, items or money to a shelter.
- Spend more time with your dog, playing or just spending time together cuddling.
- Promise to feed your dog only the best.
- Let your dog make friends with other dogs.
- Measure your pet's food out every single time.
- Make sure your dog is getting a yearly "physical" at the vet.
- Get your pup groomed or groom him yourself.
- Spay or neuter your dog.
- Never buy a dog or puppy from a pet store or

puppy mill.

- Make sure you treat your dog against ticks and fleas.
- Think about possibly fostering a homeless pet.
- Let your dog sleep inside where it is safe and warm.
- Put an end to your dog's behaviour problems by consulting with a dog behaviourist/trainer.
- Put your dogs on a pet medical plan.
- Buy every issue of Canine Zone magazine.
- Love your dogs with all your heart. 🐾



Say NO to FIREWORKS!

For most South African families, New Year's Eve is an evening spent with family and friends, perhaps having a party or a braai. For some, it's unfortunately a time for setting off fireworks.

Sadly, research has shown that it's mainly men who find fireworks amusing and enjoy buying and setting them off. Women in general aren't the ones setting off fireworks but find it difficult to convince the males in their families not to do it.

For many years now, the hazards of fireworks to humans, pets and wildlife have been known and many articles have been written about fireworks in the media and on social media. However, this doesn't seem to have stopped people wanting to enjoy themselves to the detriment of animals.

On New Year's Eve, some people enjoy watching the colourful and dazzling displays of lights that sparkle and light up the night sky. The bangs, booms and whistles that accompany these displays only add to their excitement. For most pets, however, New Year's Eve is filled with terror and fear.

WHY? WHY? WHY?

Whilst doing our research on fireworks, we found that many people (men especially) aggressively defend their use of

fireworks. Some say they set them off because "it's fun and I grew up with them". Others say that they want their children to enjoy the experience. Most get extremely defensive about their habit of buying fireworks and setting them off and have no consideration whatsoever for animals and birds who are severely affected by the noise, smell, and pollution of the atmosphere.

THE HORROR OF FIREWORKS

Animals have a more sensitive sense of hearing than humans do, so noises that are a little loud to us are downright deafening to them. When panicked, our pets will do most anything to get away from a frightening situation. They will jump through glass windows and even scale tall walls if necessary.

Pets get anxious and break out of gardens. They then end up running panicked through the suburbs and on main roads where they can get hit by cars. Last year, after New Year's Eve, suburbs were full of pamphlets posted on poles and on shopping centre walls asking for help to find their lost dogs.

Social media too was inundated with posts about lost dogs. Sadly, many of the dogs that ran away in fear never returned home. Although this is incredibly tragic and I feel sadness for the dogs, I do ask myself why the dogs' owners were not at home to comfort and protect their pets on New Year's Eve?



AND IT DOESN'T END THERE...

Dogs have been known to try and attack fireworks or firecrackers, eat them, catch them or try to play with them, sometimes resulting in horrific injuries – and even death. On New Year's Eve last year, a dog tried to fetch a lit firework, and the rocket exploded in his mouth. The resulting wounds on the little dog's mouth and face were so severe that it had to be euthanised. Dogs who've had run-ins with bottle rockets and mortars have been burned, have damaged limbs and have even lost eyes as a result. In some cases, people toss a firework or firecracker in the air, and the dog jumps up, swallows it, and the firecrackers cause severe damage to the internal organs.

KEEPING YOUR PETS SAFE

Sadly, until the day that humans become less selfish and care about the sentient beings we share our planet with, New Year's Eve will be an unhappy and tragic time for those who do care about animals. Until humanity realises that fun can be had without harming animals or our planet, here are tips to make your pets feel safe and secure on New Year's Eve.



- Do not take your pet to firework displays! Pets have been known to bolt from owners once the show begins, only to be hit by cars in their mad dash to find somewhere to hide.
- Never ever let off fireworks near or next to your pet. If ignited too close to your pet, fireworks can cause very painful burns to the body, face, nose and mouth, in addition to the psychological trauma they are sure to produce.
- Never ever leave your pet outside loose in the garden or tied up. They will have no place to go and the combination of restraint and noise will traumatise them even more.
- Make sure all of your pets wear an appropriate-fitting collar with proper identification attached. Microchipping your pet is also highly recommended.
- On New Year's Eve, walk your dog at least one hour before the sun sets to prevent exposure to the fireworks. Take an extra-long walk to use up his excess energy, if possible.
- Keep your pets inside the house on New Year's Eve. Make sure there is nothing of value in the room your pet might accidentally break in their moments of panic. It is also a good idea to unplug floor and table lamps. Feed and water your pet a few hours before confining them to the house.
- If you simply cannot keep your pets inside (and we can't see why not), provide kennels or other "safe places" for your pets to hide. Cover the kennels with blankets to dampen the noise.
- Turn on the TV or radio to help drown out the noise of the fireworks to minimise your pets' exposure to the noise. Keep the volume at a normal level; turning it up too loud may only increase your pets' anxiety.
- Make sure all doors and windows are securely shut and locked. Shut all blinds and drapes to minimise visual stimuli.
- Do not turn off all the lights in the house. By leaving some of the lights on your pet will be calmer and it will also reduce the flashes of light affecting your pet. Leaving them in a pitch-black room will only frighten them further.
- If your pet gets excessively distraught by loud noises, experts recommend that you stay home with your pet. Tranquilisers or sedatives may be necessary. Contact your family veterinarian to discuss this option.
- If your pet is anxious and behaves nervously by crying, whining or pacing back and forth, try and distract your pet with chew toys or by playing with it or doing something else it enjoys.
- Never punish your pet for its reaction to fireworks or other loud noises.





- Petting or reassuring your pet by saying “it’s okay” or “don’t be afraid” can actually reinforce her nervousness and fear. Instead, ignore the behaviour and try to redirect her attention.
- Act normally, even though your pet is acting abnormally. Talk in a normal voice and do the things you would normally do at that time of the night, such as making dinner or doing the laundry. Your pets take their cues from you, so if you act secure and confident so will they. If you act nervous and agitated, your pet will act the same.
- Never leave a noise phobia pet with friends unless they are acutely aware of your pet’s behaviour and know what they will need to do to calm your pet down. Only leave your pet with someone your pet knows and is comfortable with. Leaving your pet with strangers may only increase their anxiety.
- Once you are sure the fireworks are over, check on your pet. Let them out into the house first to make sure they are okay before letting them outside. Check your pet for signs of stress. If your pets show any signs of stress, it is probably better to keep them in for the night and let them out in the morning when their stress has subsided. Signs of stress in dogs include pacing,

panting, inappropriate barking, vomiting, diarrhoea, trembling/shaking and refusal to eat.

- Before letting your pet outside, do a sweep of your yard to make sure there are no spent fireworks or other hazards lying around that your pet may come in contact with. Fireworks contain dangerous chemicals that can cause vomiting, a painful abdomen and bloody diarrhoea. More severe reactions such as seizures, tremors and kidney or liver failure may occur depending on the ingredients in the firework ingested. If your pet ingests any fireworks get them to a vet immediately.

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Educate people and spread the word about the dangers of fireworks. Encourage your community or suburb to be a “Fireworks-free Zone”. You can do this by posting on community Facebook pages and putting out pamphlets in your neighbourhood. Report vendors selling fireworks to the authorities. The police force has cracked down on this and last year many vendors were arrested. Set up an Animal Rescue Team in your area and confirm safe houses. During and after fireworks are set off on New Year’s Eve, drive around to look for traumatised and lost dogs to take to the safe houses. Do the same on New Year’s Day. 🐾



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TOP TIPS FOR CHOOSING A PET SITTER



You might want to take your non-human family member with you everywhere you go, but sometimes that just isn't possible. Finding a responsible, professional individual to take care of your pet may be a more preferable option to leaving them housed in a boarding facility.

Pet sitters do much more than provide a pet with food and water while their guardian is away from home. A good pet sitter also spends quality time with the dog/s, gives them exercise and knows how to tell if they need veterinary attention. What's more, pet sitters typically offer additional services, such as taking in mail and newspapers and watering plants.

BENEFITS

A pet sitter must offer both you and your pet many benefits, including keeping your pet in the environment they know best, their regular diet and routine, and relief from travelling to and staying in an unfamiliar place with other animals in a boarding kennel.

With the right pet sitting you will get the peace of mind that comes from knowing that your pet is being cared for by someone who will take care of your pets as if they were their own. Another benefit is that you will know that there is someone reliable staying in your home and protecting both your pets and your possessions from criminals.

DON'T LEAVE HOME BEFORE YOU KNOW YOUR PETS ARE SAFE



WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR?

Just because someone calls herself a pet sitter doesn't mean she's qualified to do the job. It's important to learn all you can about a prospective pet sitter's qualifications and services. Before selecting a pet sitter, interview the candidates over the phone or at your home. Find out the following:

- Has the pet sitter got references from previous clients? Will the pet sitter provide you with the phone numbers of other clients who have agreed to serve as references?
- Does the pet sitter have a bond with dogs (and cats, if required)? Will she record notes about your pets – such as their likes, dislikes, fears, habits, medical conditions, medications, and routines?
- What will happen if the pet sitter experiences car trouble or becomes ill? Does she have a backup?
- Will the pet sitter provide related services such as in-home grooming, dog walking, dog training and playtime?
- Will the pet sitter provide a written service contract spelling out services and fees?
- If she provides live-in services, what are the specific times she agrees to be with your pet? Is this detailed in the contract?
- How does your pet sitter make sure that you have returned home?

Even if you like what you hear from the pet sitter and from her references, it's important to have the prospective pet sitter come to your home to meet your pet before actually hiring her for a pet-sitting job.

Watch how she interacts with your pet – does your pet seem comfortable with the person? If this visit goes well, start by hiring her to care for your pet during a short trip, such as a weekend excursion. That way, you can work out any problems before leaving your beloved pet in the pet sitter's care for longer periods.

HELPING THE PET SITTER AND YOUR PET

Of course, even the most trustworthy, experienced pet sitter will have trouble if you haven't also kept your end of the bargain. Here are your responsibilities:

- Make reservations with your pet sitter early, especially during holidays.
- Ensure your pet is well socialised and allows strangers to handle him.
- Affix current identification tags to your pet's collar and make sure they are microchipped.
- Leave clear instructions detailing specific pet-care responsibilities and emergency contact information, including how to reach you and your veterinarian.
- Leave pet food and supplies in one place.
- Buy extra pet supplies in case you're away longer than planned.
- Leave a key with a trustworthy neighbour as a backup, and give him and your pet sitter each other's phone numbers. Be sure those extra keys work before giving them out.
- Show the pet sitter your home's important safety features, such as the circuit breaker and security system.
- Finally, have a safe and fun trip. And remember to bring your pet sitter's phone number in case your plans change – or you just want to find out how your precious fur kids are doing.

FINDING THE RIGHT PET SITTER

The pet-sitting industry has grown in recent years. This has provided pet owners with many options for choosing a professional pet sitter, whether you are looking for cat care, dog sitting, exotic bird care, pet fish care or anything else in the way of in-home pet-care services.

With more pet-sitting options and numerous online pet-sitter directories, you will need to be more prudent in your search for reliable pet care. Practise due diligence to ensure that you are using the services of a truly professional pet sitter. Finding a pet sitter to provide the right pet-care services requires an

investment of time – time to do phone interviews, conduct an in-your-home meeting and thoroughly check references on those you’re considering hiring.

Any pet sitter worth their salt will have a support network and what better place to get a recommendation than your veterinarian? Especially for older and special needs pets, a pet sitter who has an established professional relationship with your pet’s doctor will provide you with peace of mind should there be a medical emergency.

Word of mouth is another good way of finding a competent pet sitter. Let’s face it, anyone can look good on paper and even display impressive credentials selling their expertise at pet sitting. However, a qualified pet sitter will come recommended by either a fellow pet parent or a trusted behaviourist who has experience leaving their non-human loved ones in said care. Pet sitters always appreciate a reference after they have left your employ, so if yours has done an excellent job, make sure that you refer her to your friends and family and give her a printed reference letter.

DON’T LEAVE HOME BEFORE YOU...

1. Have swapped personal contact information to ensure that you can always contact the sitter whenever you need to and she can get hold of you.
2. Have prepared a pack or written up information for the sitter, for example – information about any particular pet requirements, instructions for working specific electricals, and specific garden care. Some information about the local area – recommended cafes, supermarket, walks or places of interest, for example – is always beneficial for the pet sitters too. It is also very important to leave any emergency contact information – for example, vet, plumber, friend or family member who could be called on if anything urgent is needed – as well as your own contact information while away.
3. Have let your pet sitter know if your pets have any specific needs or habits.
4. Have cleared some space for her to unpack – especially if the pet sit is for any lengthy duration. Somewhere to hang clothes, or an empty drawer or two is always helpful.
5. Have let the neighbours know you have got a pet sitter arriving. And it’s always worth leaving a spare key somewhere safe too – perhaps with a friend, family member or neighbour.
6. Allowed sufficient time to show her around your home first, introduced any pets, explained feeding habits, and taken her through everything she needs to know. A good idea is to invite a sitter to sleep over the evening before you leave, in order to go through everything properly.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

We spoke to a few pet sitters and several have had some very specific requests. For example, one had to take photos of the dogs three times a day and a video once a day to send to the owner. Another said that the owners had linked up cameras throughout the home to monitor their pets (and the pet sitter). One young man said that he was told to allow the dog to “phone” his owners at least twice a day so that he “could hear their voices”.

One young lady said she had to sign a contract stating that she wouldn’t allow friends or a boyfriend into the house, that she had to be at home by 6 pm at the latest, and was not allowed to go out in the evenings or consume any alcohol.

I must admit, being a paranoid dog owner myself, I can understand a few of these requests. That being said, if you find the right person, you need to have trust in their abilities to care for your pets. Pet sitting enables a great win-win for both parties; the arrangement is between you and the pet sitter – and with mutual respect and sufficient preparation, everything should run very smoothly. 🐾

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A Tribute to Yanka-Kwanita

Written by YankaPop's Mom, a very Proud Pit Bull Mom, Marizanne Ferreira



Professional photos by Luc Hosten (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063737122615>)

She was a great comfort to my blind sheep, Angela, the elderly at the various retirement homes we visited, and also to many children. She'd help adults to face their fear of dogs.

That was my girl, that was how she rolled. Not once did she growl, ever. Twice she was attacked and bitten by other dogs and once a Mountain Reedbuck head-butted her. She didn't retaliate. She'd just look at me as if to say, "Momsie, why are they so mean?"

Yanka had a purpose. She was my Bestie. We were a unit. Life as known before Yanka had become mundane and irrelevant. I wanted to spend every possible moment with her. She went with me just about everywhere! She'd sleep between my legs when I was getting a facial, lie next to my chair at the hair salon, wait for me with the reception ladies whilst I had my eyes tested, and quietly sat at my feet in church at my friend's funeral. Coffee shops, markets, beaches and parks were her playground. She was just THAT well-behaved girl that I could take with me everywhere. She made me proud.

The only time she ever broke my heart was when her heart stopped. I miss her wagging tail and soulful eyes, and every cuddle, every moment spent together is now etched in my heart.

As I navigate the painful void she's left behind, I'm forever grateful for the countless memories we created together. She'll always be a part of me, my faithful companion.

May my sweet girl rest in peace, knowing that she touched many hearts and was loved by many. She was that light in my life and I'll carry her spirit with me always.

My Yanka-Kwanita, friend to everyone, adored by many, feared by none!

Yanka was my cherished soulmate, my beautiful girl. She was always more than just a pet; she was joy, comfort, and unconditional love. From the moment she bounded into my life, and with the help of social media into so many other lives, she filled every day with laughter and warmth. Her playful spirit and gentle nature taught me so much about loyalty and compassion.

Often elegantly dressed or just wearing a stunning designer collar, I felt like a bag lady next to her. It was ok... she was my security "blankie". I needed her.

Yanka had a purpose. She had to save and enrich many lives. She'd accompany me when I was walking/working with anxious or frightened Pit Bulls and other dogs. Her peaceful and gentle demeanour would often help with their anxiety. She was just an amazing foster Mom and gave warmth and comfort to so many baby orphans – be it lambs, monkeys, mongoose, buck, goats, baboons or even a crow! The little ones would latch onto a loose piece of her skin and suckle away. She let them be. She'd clean and stimulate them.

Yanka had a purpose. She had to save and enrich many lives.



Editor's note... Knowing how much Yanka IS loved by so many and how much she's missed by us all, Marizanne shares a little more...

Yanks missed her 12th birthday by 25 days. Her passing was sudden, but it was perfect. She crossed the rainbow in style, outside, in the sun, peacefully and in my arms.

In January of this year she had a routine check-up at the vet. They found irregularities in her liver and we were referred to a specialist.

She was such a trooper at the specialist and would "sit & stay" like only she could whilst needles were shoved into her and testing and probing undertaken.

It was confirmed that her liver needed help, and we changed her diet and she was on various medications.

Life carried on... and I booked three days at Springlands Farm as a 12th birthday treat for her. On Friday, the 27th of September, we went to the beach and my girl had a ball. She swam, she played, she dug her usual half-moon hole around me in the sand. It was a good morning. She was so happy and my cup was full.

That afternoon, I noticed blood in her urine and off to the vet we went. My girl was sick. Her platelets were a mere 12 and her liver had deteriorated. She

spent her weekend enjoying her favourite food and sleeping in my arms while we waited for the treatment to kick in.

On Monday we went back to the vet, who sent us to the specialist. Sadly, the treatment didn't work and her spleen was in danger of bursting.

I knew I had to act only in her best interest and took Dr Böhm's advice. It was the hardest thing I ever had to do.

Every single Prayer I had for Yanka since she arrived, flea infested, at my home so many years ago until her last breath was answered.

I knew life without her would be very hard, but I prayed for her to go before me and for that I'm grateful. 🐾

(You can read more about beautiful Yanka-Kwanita here: <https://www.happytailsmagazine.co.za/happy-tales/living-life-sheepishly-yanka/>)



MAKING THE FESTIVE SEASON FUN FOR YOUR DOG



The holiday season is here and with it the many pleasures we've come to expect and welcome. The holidays are a time to enjoy with family, and that includes your fur kids. Here are a few ideas to make the holidays special for the whole family.

1. Get a family portrait taken with your dogs. Including your dogs will be so much fun, and you'll have the special memories forever.
2. Find a few great dog-friendly recipes online and get baking and experimenting with decorations. You could make your family and friend's dogs and shelter dogs baked gifts as well. Just make sure that the recipes and ingredients are safe for dogs. For example, don't include ingredients like grapes, raisins or chocolate.
3. Create a treasure hunt for doggie treats. This can be done by hiding the treats when your dog is in another
4. Get your dog his own Christmas stocking and fill it with little
5. Christmas Eve or Christmas morning – depending on your tradition – is a fun time highlighted by furiously unwrapping gifts. Allow your loyal dog to join in on the fun and watch as he joyfully unwraps his gifts. Just make sure that all gifts and wrappings are safe for dogs.
6. Make a special video of your dog or start a photo album. There are lots of fantastic video and photo editing apps available, and the entire family can get involved in creating memories. You could even start a YouTube channel for your dog. Who knows... he or she might become famous!
7. Fight the urge to sit around during the holidays and get

treats and toys. The creation of the doggie stocking could also be a fun family activity (especially for the kids), and your dogs' purging of the stocking's contents will be sure to delight.

room and then bringing him or her back in to search for the treats. This activity is sure to entertain your family and friends as well.

4. Get your dog his own Christmas stocking and fill it with little

out with your dog. This way, you'll both be well exercised, and it'll do you both some good. Go for walks, play games, play with a laser pointer or have a swim together.

8. Invite pet-loving family and friends over for a Christmas pet party. You can have the human guests bring homemade dog treats or maybe have a toy exchange. Dogs love new toys, even if they're second hand.
9. Snuggle down with your dogs and watch movies like *Marley and Me*, *Hotel for Dogs* or *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*. Your dog will probably sleep through the movie, but who cares – as long as you're together.
10. Visit dog-friendly restaurants and shopping malls. Just make sure that your fur kid is well behaved on a lead and is well socialised.
11. Teach your dog a new trick or practise dog training. Get yourself an agility set and set it up in your garden.
12. Virtually adopt or sponsor a shelter dog in your own dog's honour. Put together treat hampers and deliver them to your closest shelter, or do a collection – friends, family members and colleagues would be happy to donate food, a toy, a blanket or even money. A wonderful way to show your gratitude for having your own dogs in your life. 🐾



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10 Tips For Safe Car Travel With Your Pet



Planning ahead and taking safety precautions is vitally important when travelling with your dog

For some pet parents, a trip is no fun if the four-legged members of the family can't come along. But travelling can be highly stressful, both for you and your pets. If you're planning to take a trip with pets in tow, we have some tips to help ensure a safe and comfortable journey for everyone.

Remember, no matter where you're headed, make sure that your pet has a microchip for identification and wears a collar with a tag imprinted with your home address, as well as a temporary travel tag with your cell phone, destination phone number and any other relevant contact information. Dogs should wear flat (never choke!) collars. In addition, place a "Dog on board" sticker prominently on your car in the case of an emergency. Ensure that you have the contact details of a family member, friend or even a veterinarian in your wallet, or displayed where emergency personnel would see them.

PLAN AHEAD AND SAFETY FIRST

Travelling with a pet involves more than just loading them in the back seat and motoring off – especially if you'll be driving long distances or plan to be away for a long time. Here are ten handy hints for a safe and comfortable journey:

1. If you are going on a long trip, keep your pets safe and secure in a well-ventilated crate or carrier. There are a variety of wire mesh, hard plastic and soft-sided carriers available. Whatever you choose, make sure it's large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around in. And, it's a good idea to get your pet used to the carrier in the comfort of your home before your trip. There are also several types of dog restraints available on the market, so do your research and get the best-quality restraint possible.
2. Get your pet geared up for a long trip by taking him on a series of short drives first, gradually lengthening time spent in the car. If you are using a carrier or crate, be sure to always secure it so it won't slide or shift in the event of a sudden stop.
3. Your pet's travel-feeding schedule should start with a light meal three to four hours prior to departure. Don't feed your furry friend in a moving vehicle, even if it is a long drive.
4. Never ever leave your dog alone in a parked vehicle. On a hot day, even with the windows open, the temperature inside a car can become dangerously high very quickly, leading to dehydration, hyperthermia and death.
5. Pack for your pet. In addition to travel papers (if you are crossing borders), food, bowl, leash, a waste scoop, plastic bags, grooming supplies, medication and a pet first-aid kit, pack a favourite toy, blanket or pillow to give your pet a sense of familiarity.
6. Don't allow your dog to ride with his head outside the window. He could be injured by flying objects and the wind could give him an ear infection. Small dogs can jump out of the window or even be stolen by criminals when you stop at a stop sign or robot.
7. Always carry bottled water so that your dog can drink whenever you stop to freshen up.
8. Break up long car trips by staying over at a mid-way point. There are many pet-friendly accommodation options, so book before you leave. It's not fair to keep a dog on the road for more than seven hours at a time. That being said, frequent breaks are vitally important for you and your dog. Let your dog have something to drink, relieve herself, and take a short walk.
9. NEVER put dogs in the back of a truck or bakkie without a canopy. We have heard of so many stories of dogs getting lost, badly hurt and even killed when they have jumped or fallen off the back of a bakkie.
10. If your dog suffers from car sickness or panic attacks in a car, speak to your veterinarian before you set off on a long car trip. Medication can be provided by your vet and you can start getting your dog used to being in a car long before you set off. Change your dog's experience, change the association, and you may well change the behaviour. 🐾

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JET-SETTING DOG DOES OVER 80 FLIGHTS



20 November 2024 - These days it's not unusual to see a pooch and its human dining out at a restaurant, enjoying a social function, or even packing their passports and taking a trip together.

In fact, American aviation industry authorities report that over 2 million pets and animals travel on commercial flights every year. Local airlines say the numbers here in South Africa are also climbing steadily, with more and more pet owners refusing to leave their closest companions at home when they go on holiday.

One such frequent flyer is a little Pomeranian cross Yorkie (affectionately coined a "Porkie" by her owner) called Ruby. After taking more than 80 flights, Ruby is an old pro when it comes to travelling.

Ruby is a one-eyed rescue dog with an adventurous

spirit, and an appetite for travel. She was adopted from the SPCA by Tina Wagener as a puppy ten years ago, and the two have been inseparable ever since. Ruby's original owner had relinquished her to the SPCA as a tiny puppy after a fight with a bigger dog left her with one eye and the owner didn't want a one-eyed dog on his hands. But her luck took a turn when she was given a second chance and a happy home. Little did she know that she was destined to be a jetsetter too! "She's my little girl, she comes everywhere with me. I would never leave her behind," says Tina, who is a frequent flyer. And as a result, so is Ruby.



"She gets so excited when she sees my suitcase being packed, and she knows exactly where to go and what to do once we get to the airport. First, we drop off my easel and art equipment at excess baggage, then she leads me to the restrooms for a bathroom break before we head through security," she says. But Tina says she still uses some pet calming spray to ease the nerves, and the fact that her favourite airline is so welcoming makes it much easier. In the past, animals were made to travel in the hold with the luggage, but as pets have become more integral members of the family, the rules have begun to change.

According to Miles Van Der Molen, CEO of CemAir, there's no charge for travelling with small dogs and cats that fit under the seat in the cabin. Medium

dogs can be accommodated in the cabin if a seat is booked for them, and large breeds occasionally travel in the cabin with their owners if special arrangements have been made, otherwise they must go in the hold.

“We fly border collie rescues around the country when they need to be transported from welfare organisations to their forever homes, at no cost. In fact, any rescue dog that’s being re-homed gets a free flight with us. Until recently I was the owner of two border collies. But my one dog, Sushi, died two months ago from cancer. She is the reason we got into pet travel, she went everywhere with me. So I understand the love and affection people have for their pets. As owners we expect the world to treat our pets in the same way that we would. So that’s what we strive to do at CemAir,” says Van Der Molen.



Marketing Manager at Absolute Pets, Genevieve Adams, says, “We live in such exciting times where pet owners are no longer forced to leave their pets at home when they head out to restaurants, go away for the weekend or take a flight to a holiday destination. Pet owners have a choice to take their pets with them and include them like real family members, since that’s exactly what they are. We are so impressed and encouraged by the lengths that so many businesses (restaurants, accommodation, transport channels and so on) have gone to, to

accommodate pets and cater to their needs. It is long overdue, especially considering the amount of joy and companionship they have always given us. The more we love them, care for them, and include them in our lives, the happier they are and the better the bond we share with them. I’m sure all pet owners will agree that this leads to a better quality life for both the pet and the owner.”

According to the team at national pet retailer Absolute Pets, there’s no reason *not* to include your furry friends in your holiday plans, provided you have the appropriate size carrier and have taken the correct measures prior to flying. Check the airline’s regulations before booking. There are usually restrictions around size and weight. Get your pet comfortable with their carrier prior to the flight. It is a good idea to do some crate training to create positive associations with the carrier and help your dog feel comfortable. The more familiar they are with the space, the less likely they are to experience anxiety while travelling. Your pet should have enough room to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably. However, it’s also important that the carrier isn’t too large, as this can lead to unnecessary movement and might make your pet feel insecure or lead to injury in transit. A well-fitted carrier ensures your pet is secure, but not cramped.

Absolute Pets also recommends you consult a vet before flying and get their view on whether your pet needs some calming aid for the flight. If so, they have a range of calming aids from trusted brands that will help ease any anxiety.

So, if you’re one of the 80% of South Africans that let your pet cuddle up in your bed with you at night, and consider them a cherished member of the family, why not include them in your travel plans this holiday season? 🐾



WASHING YOUR DOG'S BELONGINGS



Tips for keeping your dog's bedding, toys, leads and collars squeaky clean and hygienic

Having a dog in the family means living a life of unconditional love, constant companionship and, to be honest, a lot of cleaning. Because we love our dogs so much, it's important to clean key items of theirs regularly and thoroughly to prevent them from getting sick. Pet-loving bacteria thrives on their blankets and beds, in their bowls and even on their toys.

HOW TO PROPERLY WASH YOUR DOG'S BEDDING

Depending on your dog's activity levels, you'll most likely need to wash bedding once every two weeks. The recommended method is to wash all blankets and covers on a full cycle at 60° Celsius using detergent or bleach. If, however, your washing machine doesn't have a temperature gauge, or if your machine is only fitted for cold water, you may need to hand-wash. Remember to remove as much hair as possible before washing with a vacuum or rubber gloves to avoid hair clogging drains and washing machine components.

After you've finished, you'll definitely want to dispose of any rubber gloves that were used in the process, as well as wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water. A good way to make sure that your hands are clean enough is to sing the birthday song twice whilst washing up. It's also important to clean out your washing machine if it was used to clean dog bedding. Simply run an empty cycle with a small amount of bleach and then another single rinse cycle to flush any excess bleach from the machine.

KEEPING BEDS CLEAN

People often buy a dog bed by how it looks and how well it will blend with their home décor. How easy it will be to keep clean should be your primary concern when you're going to purchase a dog bed. Check the cleaning instructions on the tag of the dog bed to know whether the cleaning methods and material of the dog bed are suitable for you or not.

The best solution is to buy beds with a removable, washable cover and a good zipper. If your dog tends to have wetting issues, try enclosing the

mattress in a large plastic bag and then put a cover over the bag.

Vacuum the bed daily or use a pet hair sticky roller to remove stubborn hair. Make a deodoriser spray with some baking soda, essential oil (lavender, lemongrass) and water, and spray the bed daily.

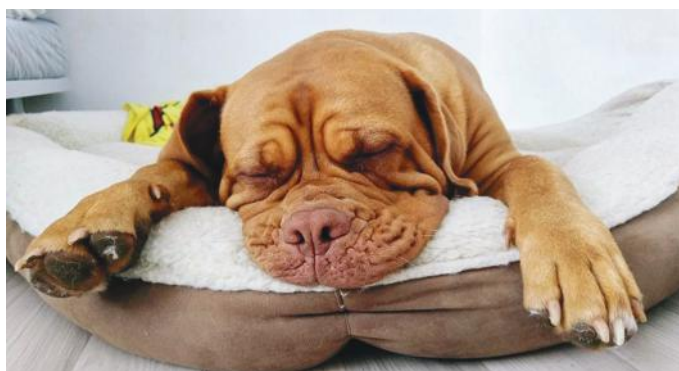
BUT WHAT ABOUT TOYS AND BOWLS?

One in five pet parents who responded to a new survey by Petco in the USA admitted to waiting at least a month to clean their pets' eating and drinking bowls. However, bowls should be washed daily with dishwashing liquid and hot water to avoid illnesses. Pet toys can be a source of bacteria (including Staph bacteria), yeast, and mould. While you won't need to clean all of your pet's toys as often, it's still a good idea to give them a soak in hot water every now and then. As always, if a toy is broken or altogether too dirty to clean, you might want to grab a new one.

LEASHES, HARNESSES AND COLLARS

Leashes and harnesses should be washed every few weeks. You can throw these in the washing machine when you do your dog's bedding, but avoid putting genuine leather leashes and harnesses into a washing machine, as it could damage them. Rather hand-wash these items.

Collars should ideally be cleaned weekly. Have a spare collar around for when your dog's collar is being washed and dried. They can also be washed in your washing machine, but as with leather leads and harnesses, leather collars should be hand-washed. 🐾





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10 Great Reasons to Take Your Dog on Holiday



Maybe you've already thought about taking your dog on holiday with you but have baulked at the idea before even looking into it – after all, it feels stressful for a whole host of reasons.

Chances are some readers might even have chosen not to go away at all instead of getting separated from the beloved family pet.

However, we are here to change your mind about holidays with your dogs as there are amazing pet-friendly accommodation options in South Africa where you and your dog will feel comfortable and relaxed. So maybe it's time to look at the reasons why your dog, who is after all a valuable member of the family, should come with you on holiday.

1. You'll be keeping the family together – Taking your doggos with you on holiday means you're not going to miss them and worry about them! Many of us feel that time away isn't quite complete without the dog around for love and companionship, so why should the family be broken up for a holiday?
2. The cost factor – Boarding your dogs for a week or two in a decent kennel or dog hotel can be a big expense, so keeping them with you can save money that's better spent on nice dinners and fancy holiday dog biscuits.
3. It'll be an adventure – If you've got the kind of dog that loves getting out and about and doing some doggy exploring, they'll love the experience of sniffing out a whole new area, and the fact that you get to enjoy it with them just makes for a fabulous holiday for everyone.
4. Having the dog along will calm you – If you've got your dogs with you and you're driving to your holiday destination, you'll find yourself stopping more often so that the fur kids can stretch their legs and get food and water. And when you do, there's no better way to take advantage of your pit stop than by getting to know your new surroundings and taking a short walk to stretch your legs and to keep you alert when you get back in the car.
5. Interesting surroundings – Taking the dog to the same park or around the same neighbourhood day after day is all well and good, but trust us – your dog will absolutely love a crazy run across a sandy beach and chasing after waves or a gambol across a grassy meadow.
6. It takes away the worry – As much as you might try, it can be very difficult to relax while you're away if you're thinking about the dog feeling miserable in a kennel or in the hands of a dog-sitter. Give yourself the best chance to totally relax on your break by simply having your dog along with you on the ride.
7. You won't have to disturb friends and family – If you've

avoided kennels or dog-sitters by getting accommodating friends or relatives to look after your beloved dogs while you're away, their patience might be stretched after two weeks of twice-daily phone calls checking if they have followed your lists and asking to speak to the dog.

8. Zero sulks! – If you do go away – and even nipping to the shops might do it in some cases – you might find a very sulky fur kid on your return. Do you really want to be in the dog house for leaving them for so long? Thought not.
9. Rest and relaxation – Just like us, our dogs can also get stressed, fed up and lonely, and they need a break from everyday life as well. A holiday is a good time for some much-needed relaxation, for both us and our pooches. Dogs pick up on our moods, so spending time with them on holiday when we're relaxed helps them to relax too.
10. Better accommodation – Hotels are generally not the most pet-friendly institutions in the world. Luckily, there are loads of pet-friendly holiday homes and bed and breakfasts in South Africa, and even in areas like Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana or Swaziland, from where you can have the holiday of a lifetime in a relaxed,

private home-from-home where your four-legged friend will be just as welcome as you are – and have just as good a time, too.

If none of the above will convince you to take your dogs with you on holiday then make sure that you have an extremely reliable pet-sitter who comes with fantastic references, or a family member or friend who loves your dogs as much as you do, to take care of your dogs. Or, you can book the fur kids into a reputable dog hotel such as the Woodrock Pet Hotel – a luxury pet boarding facility that goes above and beyond to give your dogs the five-star love and attention they need whilst you are unable to do so.

The Woodrock Pet Hotel caters for pampered loved dogs. All pets deserve top care and total devotion, and the love and attention that each dog receives make Woodrock's holiday experience one that you can trust. The best thing is that by supporting the Woodrock Pet Hotel you're helping rescue animals, as all proceeds go to fund Woodrock Animal Rescue. 🐾

For more information, call 084 585 2418, email hotel@woodrock-animalrescue.co.za, or visit their website on www.woodrock-animalrescue.com



THE LOW-DOWN ON BILIARY



The common or layman's term for biliary is Tick Bite Fever. Biliary is a disease caused by a parasite named *Babesia*. Tick bite fever is one of the most common infectious diseases in Southern Africa.

The *Babesia* parasite is transmitted via ticks. The ticks have to bite the animal and transmit the parasite, where it survives and multiplies in the red blood cells of the animal. There are different types of *Babesia* parasites that affect a number of different animals, including people. The important species in dogs is *Babesia canis*, *Babesia vogeli* and *Babesia rossi*, and in cats it is *Babesia felis*. In South Africa, the yellow tick is the one that can carry the canine *Babesia* parasite.

Tick bite fever in dogs is seen

throughout South Africa. In cats, however, it is only seen in the Western Cape area.

SYMPTOMS SEEN IN DOGS

Because the parasites live in the red blood cells of the dogs, these blood cells get damaged or destroyed, causing the observed symptoms. And, of course, the longer the disease carries on and progresses, the worse the symptoms get.

The first symptoms noticed by owners in dogs are lethargy, anorexia (loss of appetite), and fever. The next symptoms seen are pale gums and/or pale mucous membranes of the inner eyelids. Because the dog's red blood cells get damaged and destroyed by the parasite and the animal's own body is trying to get rid of the parasite, they can become quite

anaemic and jaundice may also be seen. If a dog is not treated at this stage, and the disease progresses, complications can then occur.

Complicated biliary occurs when other organs become affected, for example the kidneys, brain, lungs, liver and immune system. These patients will definitely need to be hospitalised and intensive treatment administered. Unfortunately, not all dogs with biliary (non-complicated or complicated form) survive.

DIAGNOSIS BY A VET

Diagnosis is made via clinical examination of your pet and by visualising the *Babesia* parasite on a blood smear under a microscope.

Non-complicated biliary cases may or may not need hospitalisa-

Prevention is better than cure



tion, depending on how sick your dog is. They are treated with a medication to kill the *Babesia* parasites. Your vet will use either Berenil or Forray 65.

If your dog is severely anaemic, it may need a blood transfusion. Complicated cases always need hospitalisation and intensive treatment for several days.

PREVENTION

Prevention is always better than cure. The only way to prevent your dog from getting biliary is to make sure that it is always tick-free. To do this you need to apply medication that prevents ticks from attaching to your dog. There are a vast number of products available – spot-on formulations, tablets, shampoos, powders, collars, dips, and sprays. It's best to speak to your vet about what will suit you and your dog the best.

You can also do some tick control in your environment by keeping grass cut short, sealing any cracks and crevices in paving or walls, regularly washing dogs' bedding, and keeping beds and kennels tick-free.

It is best to do both treatments on your dog and environmental treatments to ensure that the tick burden is under control, as in areas with high tick loads just doing the one will not be sufficient.

Whilst dogs can get infected with the *Babesia* parasite all year round, there is a higher incidence

now during the summer months.

REMOVING A TICK FROM YOUR DOG


Before we go on to explain the best ways to go about removing a tick from your pet's skin, here are a few ways *not* to remove a tick, despite what you might have heard or done in the past:

- Do not simply brush, scrape or pull the tick forcibly off the skin. This can lead to the tick's probe breaking off under the surface of the skin, giving rise to a range of potential infections and problems.
- Do not just leave the tick alone for your pet to deal with.
- Do not remove the tick with bare hands or your fingernails.
- Do not attempt to burn or singe the tick off.
- Do not spray the tick with an insecticide or toxin.
- Do not use alcohol to remove a tick, nor attempt to suffocate the tick using a layer of Vaseline or soap.

There are several suitable options for removing a tick from your pet safely and effectively. First of all, before you begin, make sure that you have thought about how you are going to dispose of the tick after you remove it. Ticks are parasites that can spread diseases and should not just be thrown outside or left alive. Have at hand a suitable small jar or other small sealed container in which you can place the tick after removal for safe disposal.

Use a pair of blunt needle-nose tweezers to remove the tick. Grasp the tick as close to your pet's skin as you can – do not take hold of the body of the tick or squeeze the body, as this can kill the tick, leaving the front part of the head embedded under the skin, releasing toxins. Then gently, and with a consistent pressure, twist and lever the tick away from the skin. Do not apply too much force, as you do not want the head of the tick to break off under the skin.

Whichever method you use to remove your tick, it is vital to make sure that you remove the whole of the tick and not allow the head end of it to break off and remain embedded under the skin. Should this occur by accident, take your dog to the vet for them to have a look at, and possibly arrange a course of antibiotics. Once you have removed the tick, give the affected area of your pet's skin a thorough wash and a wipe over with a topical antiseptic. Keep an eye on the affected area for a while to make sure it does not become sore or inflamed.

If your dog spends lots of time outdoors, tick checks should be part of your daily routine. Start by running your fingers slowly over your dog's entire body. If you feel a bump or swollen area, check to see if a tick has burrowed there. Don't limit your search to your dog's torso: check between his toes, under his armpits, the insides of his ears, and around his face and chin. 

The HEAT is ON!

By Dr Larry Kraitzick, Bruma Lake Veterinary Clinic



need extra care. All these dogs should be taken to a veterinarian as soon as possible after cooling! To cool down, remove the dog from the heat. If possible, move the dog indoors to an air-conditioned area or a room with a fan. If that's not possible, move them to a shaded area outdoors, preferably with decent air flow.

Extrême heat is unhealthy for everyone, but particularly for dogs. In summer, temperatures can rise rapidly in a matter of hours, and conditions are then prime for heat stroke, overheating, or "heat exhaustion" in dogs, as it's sometimes called.

SYMPTOMS

Catching a heat stroke in its early stages can help prevent permanent damage to your dog's internal organs. Some early signs of heat stroke include:

- Excessive or loud panting
- Extreme thirst
- Frequent vomiting
- A bright red tongue and pale gums
- Skin around muzzle or neck doesn't snap back when pinched

- Thick saliva

SECOND STAGE

Look out for signs of worsening heat stroke. The dog's heat stroke can be worsening if he begins to exhibit any of the following:

- Increased difficulty breathing
- Gums that turn bright red, then blue or purple
- Weakness and/or fatigue
- Disorientation
- Collapse or coma

TREATING HEAT STROKE

It's important to note that pets with short flat faces such as Bulldogs, Pugs, French Bulldogs, Pekingese, and Boston Terriers, as well as very old and young dogs and sick dogs with chronic diseases such as heart or kidney disease,

Allow the dog to drink cool water but keep the quantity of the water small at first. It's not advisable to give the dog human sports drinks. If the dog seems uninterested in water, cool or room temperature (low-fat, unsalted) beef or chicken broth is an acceptable substitute. Do not force-feed water to the dog if he cannot drink freely on his own.

Cool the dog with water by wetting him with a stream of cool water. If the water is coming from a hose, be sure that the pressure is reduced. Do not submerge your dog underwater completely, as his temperature can drop too quickly, which may lead to other complications. When wetting your dog, be sure that the water isn't overly cold. Very cold or ice

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Recognising and treating heat stroke and dehydration

water can actually slow the dog's cooling processes.

Do not cover or confine the dog. You can wipe the dog down with cool, damp towels, but don't drape the towels over him, as they can trap in the dog's body heat. Similarly, do not place the dog in a closed crate that will hold the heat.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE!

Of course, the best cure is prevention, and you can help

keep your dog from overheating with some basic safety practices. These include limiting exercise or outdoor activity on excessively hot or humid days, providing plenty of shade and water when your dog is outdoors, and never, under any circumstances, leaving your pet in a parked car – not even in the shade with the windows rolled down! Even on cool days, the inside of a car can get hot very quickly, making it an extremely dangerous situation for your dog.

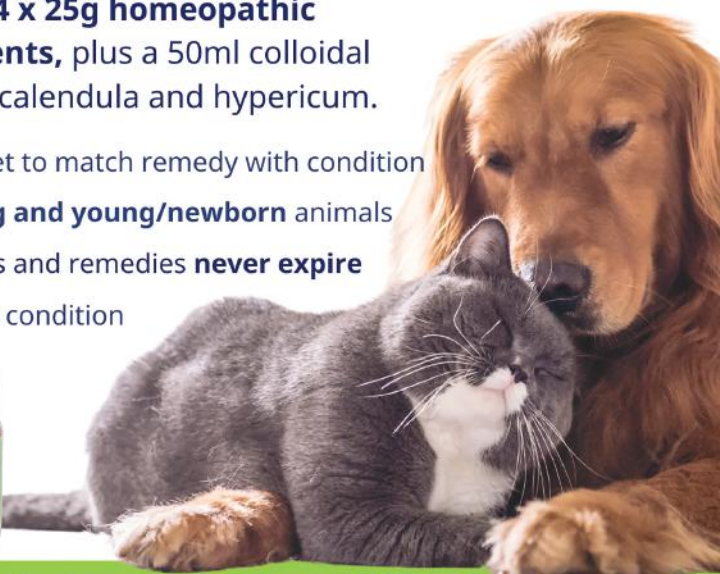
If your dog has lots of energy

and needs to exercise, take him swimming or let him play in a sprinkler for a short while. If your dog has very long or thick hair, consider getting him a shorter haircut during summer. Never take your dog on long walks when it's hot. A short walk in the early morning or evening would be best. Keep in mind that hot tar or paving can burn sensitive foot pads. When out and about, make sure you always have water available for your dog, and make sure there's a shady spot for him to rest. You can also wet your dog down or use a cooling vest. 🐾



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Saving Schatzie

Written by Dido Blagden

Professional photography by Vanessa Bentley Photography
(www.instagram/veebieza/)

Sadly, despite losing his matted hair, he was still behaving like Samson – he was reactive and seemed to have a particular aversion to white men.

Unexpectedly, a seemingly perfect home for Kopi came up in a beautiful upmarket estate in Cape Town. He was renamed Stevie, and it seemed he'd be landing his butt in the butter. He flew there but after a weekend was deported back to Jo'burg. Mama Kasi was devastated and at her wits' end.

Stevie (formerly known as Kopi) then became a terrifying terrorist and had the vets doing somersaults over the reception desk to avoid his vicious attacks. The final straw was when he attacked Mama Kasi herself during a game. She'd gone where angels fear to tread and had been to hell and back trying to tame his demons, but it seemed he was too big a liability to home responsibly and he couldn't live out his days as a ward of the vets (to whom he showed no gratitude or respect either).

That was when I stepped up. Initially, I said I'd offer him a rehab – a foster home for three months. I'd already homed two Mama Kasi woofles, Biscuit (Squitty), who'd died of a turbo cancer far too soon, and then Poppy (as featured in a previous edition of Happy Tails <https://www.happytailsmagazine.co.za/happy-tales/poppy/>)... Being home a lot and having had quite a bit of experience teaching my previous rescues about boundaries and space, and empowering them to learn that the sense of safety and security is more a state of being than something one has to fight tooth and nail for, I became his last chance and lifeline!

When I arrived at the vet with my friend to collect him, I was assailed by the stories of this little terrorist... warned about his out-of-control vicious attacks, and not to touch his food or treats or toys, and to run for cover the moment I see the whites of his eyes. I wondered how he got the name Stevie (Steve Austen, *die man van Staal*?) rather than Achmed (Jeff



Kopi was his original isiXhosa name. He was a three-year-old matted Rastafarian pipe cleaner with a vicious disposition, living in a squatter camp until the intrepid superhero, Helga Tsoumbris, of *Mama Kasi Rural Rescue* arrived and took pity on him.

There were four other dogs on the property: a three-month-old, a seven-month-old and a mommy dog who'd recently had 11 pups, three of which Mama Kasi found dead (smothered by their mom because they were all crammed into a tiny kennel).

Kopi was surrendered, clipped and snipped – the dreadlocks and matting gone, along with his nuts (including the undescended one). He was spoilt at the vets and Mama Kasi visited daily for an hour to give him treats and fun, a release from his cage.

Dunham's infamous dead terrorist puppet).

Having been warned, I put him in a crate and we loaded him into the car. At home we cautiously released him from the crate (with a silent little prayer), but the meet-and-greet with my other five dogs was perfect. It was as if they were all expecting him, and he acted like he'd arrived home! I almost immediately decided to change his name to Schatzie (which means "skattie" in German, and was a term of endearment that the late, great CLAW vet Saskia frequently used for any being in need of her care and TLC).

It was bizarre, because it seemed Schatzie had been exorcised and left any demons and issues behind. I treated him with wariness very briefly but it clearly wasn't necessary. He followed me wherever I went (often at my heel, pushing one of his toys into my ankle with each step), and when I wasn't going he was pretty insistent about being on my lap. I found it wasn't his space I had to respect, but I'd need to teach him to respect mine!

I couldn't reconcile the warnings and labels that I'd been given about this little fur baby. Yes, he's feisty, but not fearsome, and he seemed very predictable, with tons of pawsonality and chutzpah. He and Poppy, being of similar age, became fast BFFs (best furry friends), which honestly suits the rest of us. He was perfect with food at mealtimes, got his bowl served with everyone else, ate until he was full or food was done, and when he walked away had no issue with me removing (or one of the others licking out) his plate. He'd also respect their space,

and if someone else left their food he'd then politely approach the bowl to clean any remnants too. The only minor issue has been a bit of "marking" inside and yapping at the gate (it's a busy road of dog walkers). But hey, marking and barking is a breeze compared with biting and fighting! The marking is also now a thing of the past and he responds quickly when I call him away from the gate – he's a smart cookie and responds well to praise!

He knows he's home and we feel he is at home: "Mi casa, es su casa", and I'm blessed as yet another furry guardian angel takes roost under my rafters. Schatzie lives up to his new name: he's a treasure! He's claimed my lap and stolen my heart. Blessed Be!

If you'd like to help Mama Kasi continue to do the good she does (by assisting her pay vet bills), your donations are gratefully appreciated! 🐾

MULDERSDRIFT VET
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4085387524
Ref: Mama Kasi (Schatzie)



LUMPS AND BUMPS

By Dr Larry Kraitzick, Bruma Lake Veterinary Clinic



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

Unfortunately, vets and doctors are unable to determine just by looking at and feeling a lump exactly what it is. There are cases when the cause is obvious, for example an abscess caused by a bite wound, but there are many cases where we need more information in order to decide on our next course of action.

EXAMINATION

Very often, we need to take a tiny sample of the lump with a nee-

dle and place it on a slide. This process is called a fine needle aspirate. We then stain the material and examine it under a microscope. We call this a cytological examination, and it is the process of looking at and analysing the cells.

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

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

REMOVAL

If we decide to remove the lump because we feel it is malignant or we are not sure of exactly what it is, we will often send it to a laboratory for histological examination. This is where a specialist will look at stained sections of the sample to make an exact diagnosis. She can also very often tell us what the likelihood is that the entire lump has been removed. We



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The bottom line is not to overlook any lumps or bumps



sometimes only remove a sample of the tissue (a biopsy) from the lump and send it to the Laboratory

the procedure to ensure the most effective result with the least negative impact.

to analyse.

We can then use this information to decide the best modality to treat the lump, what other diagnostic tests may need to be carried out and whether or not surgery is needed, how to carry out

If the lump or biopsy turns out to be malignant, we may X-ray the chest, do ultrasound of the abdomen and test the lymph nodes which drain the area where the tumour occurred. We do this to try to find out if the tumour has spread and what further measures, if any, are required to be undertaken to treat the dog.

CHECK IT OUT!

The bottom line is not to overlook any lumps or bumps but to take your dog to your veterinarian to check them out. 🐾



Dachshund (-ology)





Energetic, inquisitive and devoted companions

The Dachshund is a comical clown that loves to play games and has a great sense of humour. The Dachshund is also a loyal little dog, very attached to his family.

Daxies are usually good with other family pets, too, though they can be jealous when they want attention and they can be possessive of their toys. You need to put a firm stop to the first signs of jealousy or possessiveness so that these don't become bad habits.

HISTORY

The Dachshund originated in Germany in the early 1600s. The breed's streamlined shape and bold attitude were developed and perfected to help them hunt, and eventually to fight, badgers and other mammals deep within their underground dens. The badger was a formidable adversary, especially to a small dog. Badger-dogs needed strength, stamina, keenness and courage, both above and below ground, to be successful. Dachshunds were well-suited to this task.

HOME LIFE

Though the Dachshund makes a great house dog, he does need plenty of companionship, exercise and daily walks if possible. Loneliness will lead to excessive barking and other behaviour problems. Most Dachshunds are alert watchdogs who do not take kindly to strangers intruding on their domain.

Though bright and clever, Dachshunds like to do things their own

way. In other words, they're stubborn. Cheerful praise and treats should be offered freely, as Daxies are proud little dogs who resist force. They become irritable when pushed too far, and they may respond defensively if jerked around, handled harshly, or teased. Dachshunds don't like to share attention and make excellent companions for single people or empty-nesters who have a lot of time to devote solely to their dog. This breed is not an ideal breed for families with very small children as they can be possessive of their toys, space and people, and don't like rough handling. Older children are fine, as long as they know how to properly handle the dog.

VARIETIES

There are three varieties of Daxie, namely the Wirehaired Dachshunds, which tend to be the most energetic and the most mischievous; the Longhaired Dachshunds, which tend to be the quietest and sweetest-natured; and the Smooth Dachshunds, who are most apt to attach themselves to one person and are often more aloof with strangers. Miniature Dachshunds are more active than the larger Standard Dachshunds. Daxies also come in various colours, namely – red, black and tan, chocolate and tan, cream, dapple, brindle, piebald and Isabella (silver/grey).

LIFESTYLE

Dachshunds don't need a lot of vigorous activity to remain healthy and happy, though they should be exercised and walked




daily and allowed to get out and run once in a while.

Their running activities should always take place in a fenced-in garden, however, as they love to chase small animals and birds. Their small size makes them ideal apartment, townhouse, or cluster complex dogs, but a commitment should be made to exercise a Dachshund, as they are prone to weight problems.

Dachshunds should never be left unattended in a garden. They were originally used for digging den animals out of the ground, and their instinct to dig is still strong. Though small, they can make fast work of flower beds and have been known to dig under fences and walls in search of new adventures.

HEALTH

The average life expectancy for this breed is between 12 and 15 years. Breed health concerns may include a predisposition to obesity, sick sinus syndrome, pattern baldness, immune-mediated thrombocytopenia, lipomas, congenital deafness, intervertebral disc disease, and a number of ocular disorders or conditions. 

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LICKIN' LAYERS

The Nina Ottosson Lickin' Layers is an engaging interactive puzzle toy and slow feeder designed for cats, dogs, and puppies. This fun, all-in-one toy features three spinning layers that hide treats, stimulating natural foraging instincts while promoting mental and cognitive development.

For cats, the toy helps fight boredom and encourages healthier eating habits by slowing down mealtime. With over 80 treat compartments, it offers endless entertainment, keeping cats busy as they work to uncover their rewards. It holds up to half a cup of dry food or one cup of wet food, making it a great option for portion control.

For puppies and small dogs, the Puppy Lickin' Layers is a Level two puzzle game with more than 70 treat compartments. It's designed to challenge pups and keep them mentally stimulated while also serving as a slow feeder to promote better digestion.

Made from food-safe materials, it's easy to clean and perfect for interactive play. Both toys are durable, safe, and provide hours of enriching entertainment! Available at pet, vet and online stores.



LET'S GO ECO PRO

Eco Pro offers two innovative products designed to tackle pet stains and odours naturally and effectively. Microzyme Carpet Fresh Deodorizer is a dry formulation that uses biotechnology, combining microbes and enzymes to clean carpets and pet bedding. It lifts dirt trapped in fabrics and controls odours from solid waste and other organic materials. The deep-cleaning action helps keep your home fresh by releasing dirt more effectively than just vacuuming.

EcoPro Stain & Odour Eliminator is a fast-acting, bio-enzymatic cleaner that eliminates both new and old stains caused by pet urine, faeces, and vomit. It works by breaking down stains at the source and neutralising odours naturally.

This eco-friendly, biodegradable product is safe for people, pets, and the environment, with no harmful chemicals. Suitable for multi-surface use, including homes with multiple pets, it helps deter repeat marking and leaves your home clean, fresh, and odour-free. Both products are non-toxic, 100% plant-based, and perfect for maintaining a fresh, pet-friendly home.



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ZEN CALMING

Vet's Own Zen Calming Shampoo is a super sensitive and skin soothing shampoo. Fragrance and colourant free, this luxurious shampoo contains Aloe Vera, Chamomile and Lavender with Chamomile extract and Lavender oil. A natural shampoo to soothe irritated skin, prevent itching, decrease redness and rehydrate the skin. With soothing, relaxing and calming properties, this shampoo is especially for pets who are aquaphobic or stressed.



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The Dog's Life FetchStix is made with natural rubber from the sap of rubber trees, so it's non-toxic and 100% biodegradable. They're free of any harmful chemicals like BPA, phthalates, latex and vinyl and are super fun to play with! They're durable and fun for moderate chewers and persistent chewers who like the springy resistance of this more flexible chew toy. Durable, natural rubber retains shape and stands up to tough chewing. The FetchStix combines shapes and textures to create an irresistible chew-feel with a bouncy action. Available at various outlets including www.makro.co.za



ROGZ LEADS WITH LAUNCH OF APP

ROGZ, the proudly South African pet gear company, is thrilled to announce the launch of the ROGZ World app, designed to revolutionise the way pet parents select gear for their beloved dogs. With an array of innovative features, ROGZ World simplifies the decision-making process, ensuring that every pet parent finds the perfect harness, collar, or lead tailored to their lifestyle.



Pet parents often face overwhelming choices when shopping for pet gear. With ROGZ World, those days of confusion are over. The app, developed by ROGZ and MO Agency, guides users through a series of in-depth questions, analysing lifestyle, behaviour, and specific needs to recommend the ideal gear. Notably, ROGZ World is one of the first apps to offer augmented reality (AR) viewing, allowing pet owners to visualise products in their actual size and environment before making a purchase. The app is designed with user-friendliness in mind, making it easy for first-time users to navigate through its features. As ROGZ continues to innovate, future updates may include recommendations for other pet products, including beds and toys, as well as features for cat owners. ROGZ World is available for download on both iOS and Android platforms. For more information on ROGZ, head to www.rogz.com

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DOGTOWN SA (GAUTENG)



SHADOW may come off a bit shy at first, but once he warms up to you, his heart of gold shines through. He's a gentle soul who loves a cozy cuddle, peaceful walks, and plenty of head scratches. Shadow would thrive in a calm, loving home where he can feel safe and secure.



BRONWYN is the sweetest, most lovable girl who's ready to find her forever family! With her gentle eyes and affectionate nature, she's a true heart-stealer. Bronwyn enjoys quiet moments, cozy snuggles, and gentle walks – she's the perfect match for someone who's looking for a calm and loving companion.



BRUTUS is one big-hearted guy with an even bigger personality! This charming dude is full of life, love, and playfulness. Brutus is looking for an active family who'll match his zest for life and give him all the fun, structure, and love he deserves. He's a clever boy who loves learning new things, so if you're up for training sessions and outdoor adventures, Brutus could be your perfect companion.

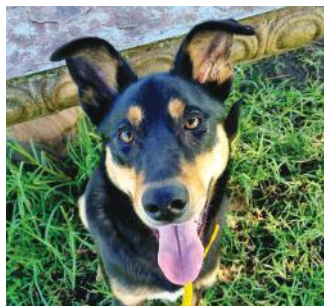


SKYE is a bundle of joy wrapped in fur, with a love for life that's as big as his beautiful, bright eyes! This sweet boy has an adventurous spirit and would make the perfect partner for an active family ready to explore the world together. From playful zoomies to heartfelt cuddles, Skye is all about making every moment count.

DARG (CAPE TOWN)



FLAVIA is still needing a retirement home as she is arthritic and needs some TLC. She's an incredibly sweet-natured girl who will make a doting companion. All Flavia needs is a small garden with a sunny spot to snooze in. She would make the perfect, easy-going girl for a retired individual.



MAX is a fantastic family dog. This stunning pooch is an extremely loving, sweet-natured boy who cuddles with his kennel mate at night so he would do well with another canine friend or have the opportunity to play with dogs he meets on walks.



SPOTTY - Our special three-legged Spotty has spent so many years in the shelter. Spotty is such a well-behaved, easy boy who loves his strolls. He's also very well behaved when meeting other dogs. Please share so he can experience a home as he is arthritic and really needs a retirement home. If you can foster Spotty, DARG covers all vet and food bills.



TROY is an incredibly special dog. He's extremely intelligent, loving and engaging and he absolutely adores people. Water and ball games are also super fun for him. This handsome hound enjoys meeting dogs on walks and playing with them.

PAWS R US SA (MIDRAND)



STRYKER is a boy who needs a patient, committed and dog-savvy human - preferably someone who understands rescued dogs. The challenge is finding him a space where he can be an only dog where he can settle down and live a happy life.



GISELLE has been waiting for weeks now and has been networked without any interest. Her soulful eyes and serene face will touch every heart. She cannot wait forever and after being freed from her previous imprisonment, it would be tragic not to find her a "happily ever after".



WOLFIE has been through a rough time. His humans moved and left him behind. He then got biliary and had to fight for his recovery. This adorable boy will need time and patience to trust and settle. With proper introductions, he will be fine with other dogs.



SCARLETT still waits for her miracle! She arrived when she was six months old, and she is now four years old. How heartbreaking to spend the best years of your young life without a home? Let's find her a forever home this festive season.

WHERE TO FIND US...

DOGTOWN SA (GAUTENG)

SHADOW, BRONWYN, BRUTUS & SKYE

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

PAWS R US SA (MIDRAND)

GISELLE, WOLFIE, SCARLETT & STRYKER

PAWS R US (SA) is an Animal Rescue and Rehoming Group and a registered Non-Profit Company (NPC). We operate in the companion animal welfare sector in South Africa and focus specifically on the rescue, shelter, networking and rehoming of rescue dogs. Our core operation is based at our Midrand facility (JHB). We also make use of a voluntary network of approved Gauteng-based foster homes. For more information or to adopt, email woof@pawrus.co.za or call 083 518 0447. Find us at Cadeau Kennels, 22 Summit Road, Midrand, South Africa.

DARG (CAPE TOWN)

FLAVIA, MAX, SPOTTY & TROY

DARG is a pro-life, non-profit organisation that rescues, cares for, sterilises and rehomes previously abused, neglected and abandoned cats and dogs. DARG provides a crucial service for the lower-income communities of Imizamo Yethu, Hangberg and the greater Hout Bay area. Situated on a large plot in Hout Bay, Western Cape, DARG provides shelter for its rescues through housing an extensive cat garden, cat sanctuary, outdoor and indoor kennel areas, as well as indoor rooms for those animals in treatment or rehabilitation. DARG relies on the public's generosity and support through donations. For more information, please call 021 790 0383 or email info@darg.org.za. You can also visit our website on www.darg.org.za.



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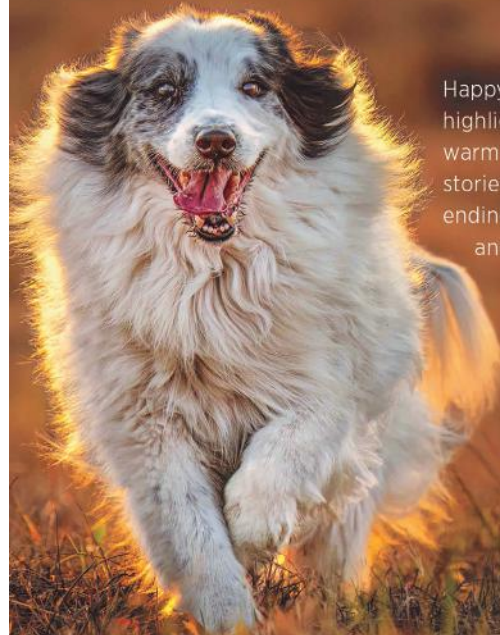
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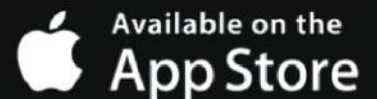
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