



To walk with a dog... is to share his world. What sights and sounds he encounters. What past and present smells he reads. To stretch his legs, to bask in the sun, to discover and wind his way through this brave new human world.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

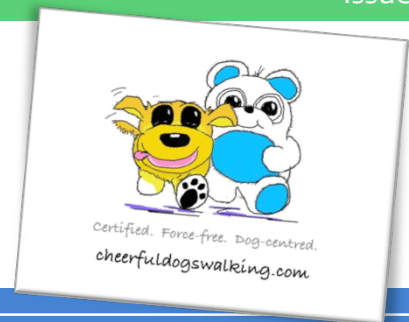
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Issue 2

Living with Dogs: 5 Essentials of Dog Park Etiquette

Only bring good dog park candidates. Be honest with yourself: Is your dog truly social? Dog parks can be as jam-packed as express ways during rush hour. Does your dog love to mingle with other dogs of all sizes, ages, temperaments, and energy levels? Some dogs need personal space and that's okay. If this is your pooch, consider hiring a dog walker for one-on-one or small group walks.

Size matters. Your Chihuahua may love Boxers, your Rottie mix may adore dachshunds, but keep close watch when little and big play together. Big dogs can unintentionally harm small dogs—designated small dog areas are built into dog parks for this very reason. If you let your pooch play with very differently sized dogs, supervise vigilantly. Never allow chase or wrestle games. Call your dog away with a treat and seek out an area of the park with more dogs his own size.



cheerfuldogs BFF in the Spotlight: Princess

Sprightly, beautiful five-year-old Princess was adopted from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Singapore in 2014. She and her guardian enjoy jaunty long walks in the park, racing across the breaking waves on the beach, and chilling on the grass watching the world go by.

Looking at her radiant smile, would you know Princess is undergoing behavioural modification for Separation Anxiety? Read Princess' story at cheerfuldogs.com/separation-anxiety



cont.

.... Dog Park Etiquette

Be the referee. A game of chase or wrestling shouldn't be one-sided. If your dog is doing all the chasing or is always on top, it's your job to intervene. Call him off and see if the other dog re-engages, that is, asks for more by coming up to your dog and soliciting play. If not, try to interest your dog in a ball or a stick or another dog group. If he keeps chasing an unwilling victim it's time to put on the leash and call it a day. Nice playground manners are not inborn, they have to be learned.

Ask before you treat. A diet, allergies, a sensitive stomach, next-day surgery—you never know what you risk upsetting when you offer that cookie without asking the dog's guardian.

Always pick up after your dog. Compelling sanitary and environmental reasons support being a conscientious picker-upper, even when nobody's watching. And if you occasionally remove what someone else left behind, well, that's just good karma.



Healthy Dog: Caring For An Ageing Dog

Figuring out when and how to adjust your dog's diet, exercise routine, and health care to ease his advancing years can be a challenge. That muzzle grays slowly and it is natural to resist making changes too soon to a lifestyle your dog cherishes. A good rule of thumb, though, is to increase your dog's health check-ups from once per year to twice per year once he enters the last third of his approximate life span. Also look out for any behavioural changes, such as irritability, confusion, or anxiety, and research an age-appropriate diet. Your dog may need extra protein or essential fatty acids, vitamin supplements for joint health, etc.

On the home front you can make — or at minimum prepare for — small changes to prevent strain or injuries. For example, where can ramps or steps make furniture more accessible? Do you have slippery floors that would be safer for paws if carpeted? Finally, if your dog is showing signs of arthritis, orthopedic dog beds can help increase circulation and reduce stiffness. Check out www.srdogs.com for more resources and ideas.



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