



To sit with a dog... is to share her home. What treats and meals she relishes. What games and favourite toys she likes. To enjoy belly-rubs, to nap on the couch, to dream and wait to welcome her beloved humans home.

# cheerfuldogs chronicles

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Issue 4

## Book Club: *Being a Dog* by Alexandra Horowitz

Alexandra Horowitz is adjunct associate professor of psychology at Barnard College, Columbia University, where she runs the Dog Cognition Lab. In her 2016 book *Being a Dog: Following the Dog into a World of Smell*, Horowitz explores the role of smell in dogs and humans. She tries to understand how a dog perceives its surroundings through smell, and how humans can rediscover their lost art of smelling. Pick up a copy at your local library to learn about fascinating aspects of your dog, such as what information dogs exchange when they sniff at each other?



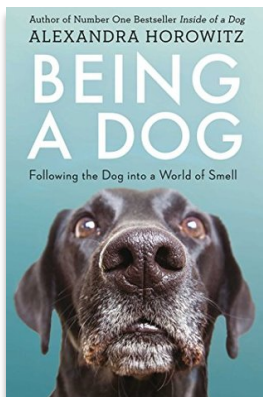
### cheerfuldogs BFF in the Spotlight: Piko

Piko was adopted from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Singapore. He and his guardians share a close bond, and enjoy doing many things together, including paddle boarding.

Piko's eagerly waiting for a new addition to the family - a baby! He's making sure he's ready to welcome his new playmate by attending baby preparation classes before the baby arrives.



At the tail end, anal sacs at “four and eight o'clock” on either side of the anus produce a dog's “signature odour”, and tell whether he is anxious. Glands located where the base of the tail meets the back reflect differences in levels of sex hormones. Smells on the head, ears and nose tell stories about a dog's health and diet. While glands over the body and on the foot pads between the toes carry the unique odour of each dog. So now you know why your dog scratches the ground after peeing?



## Dogs in Action: Pipeline Detection

With their superior detection equipment, dogs make for great pipeline leak patrollers—an important part of pipeline maintenance in countries such as Canada and the US. For oil and gas companies, the consequences of an undetected pipeline leak can be catastrophic, and shutting down a pipeline carries great costs. Prevention and ongoing maintenance is vastly preferable. Manmade equipment exists that can do the job, but it lacks the accuracy, portability, and weather-resistance of leak detection dogs. A well-trained sniffer dog can cover 14 kilometers of pipeline a day if terrain permits, doesn't negatively affect the environment, and asks for only kibble in return. And the work is very safe for the dogs, too. The amount of gas they detect is tiny—so small it has to be measured in parts per million.

Frequently recruited from rescue organizations, the ideal leak detection dog is high-energy, sensitive, responsive, easy-going, big enough to cover significant distances, and endowed with extra-acute sniffing abilities.



## Healthy Dog: Picking Healthy Dog Treats

Treats are an essential part of doggie life—ask any dog. Not only great for every teachable moment and training session, treats can help you build a positive reaction in your dog to something new or scary. But by definition, treats are delicious and desirable, and treat makers often achieve this with extra fat, salt, and sugar. Here are some rules of thumb to avoid undermining your dog's healthy diet:

First, only buy commercially made dog treats that contain named meats (e.g. "chicken" or "chicken meal," not simply "meat" or "meal") and vegetables. If grains appear on the ingredients panel, make sure they're whole. Look for whole-food ingredients such as carrots, blueberries, beef, and whole wheat. Some preservatives are necessary, especially in chewy treats, so opt for natural ones like vitamins C and E; and avoid BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole), BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene), ethoxyquin, sodium nitrate, and other chemicals. Finally, don't forget that many dogs consider a cube of cheddar or a bit of leftover chicken a big treat.

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