



We are professionally trained to help you enjoy peace of mind while your dog enjoys his walks. Yes, even while we stop to pick up his poop.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

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Issue 12

A World of Dogs: Dogs, dogs everywhere

Imagine a Bedouin hunting in the desert. The temperature is close to 120 degrees, too hot for horses to move beyond a plod. The desert hare, or dinner, is out of shooting range. Enter the Saluki. Light-boned and sharp-eyed, with the lung capacity of a cheetah. An expert hunter, specialised for this harsh environment, the dog is a partner the Bedouin depends on for his survival. Now consider a pack of huskies in the Arctic. They do more than pull the sled. They alert the Inuit to weaknesses in the ice surface. Locate air holes that give away the presence of seals. Warn of approaching polar bears. The huskies are born on the ice and live their entire lives without seeing the inside of a house.

Such scenarios, common in our recent past, are moving onto the pages of history books. The main occupation for the modern dog? We have moved into cities and suburbs in unprecedented numbers. A dog's life now takes place in houses and apartments, in parks, in suburban backyards, and on footpaths thronged with people and other dogs. Dogs have become family members. We buy them toys, we have their teeth cleaned, we take them to classes. They accompany us on holiday and to the office.

Dog Quotes

"I'd ask humans to take their dogs' misbehaviours less personally."

- Kathy Sdas



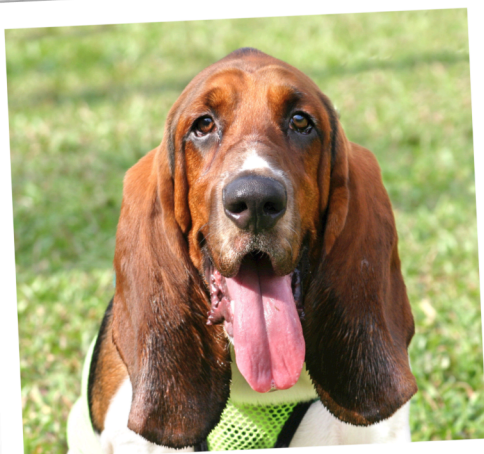
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... dogs everywhere

But amid this loving assimilation of dogs into the inner sanctum of the family universe, we tend to forget that dogs are, well, dogs. Our tolerance for natural canine behaviour shrinks year by year. We frown on barking. We dislike scuffles among dogs. Biting, naturally, is abhorred.

The Saluki in the desert and the huskies on the ice, then, are reminders of a time when dogs had vast spaces around them, physically taxing jobs, and license to bark, jump, pull, dig, and bite if threatened. We radically altered the environment of dogs in what amounts to an evolutionary blink of an eye. It's up to us to help them be successful in our world by providing plenty of training, exercise, and stimulation. In return, they'll follow us wherever we go.



Dog in the Spotlight: The Basset Hound

This sweet-looking, floppy-eared, low-to-the-ground hound boasts scenting abilities bested only by the Bloodhound. Known as a patient and affectionate family dog, the Basset hides her impressive talents behind a somewhat plodding pace and less-than-athletic exterior. But don't be fooled. When well trained, the Basset can distinguish herself in Rally-O, and tracking.

Exercise is essential to keep her fit and slim, and training (or new learning) throughout her life will keep her happy and polite.

The popularity of the Basset in popular culture makes her ubiquitous. You'll find Bassets in cartoons (*Droopy*), brand logos (*Hush Puppies*), music shows (*Elvis singing Hound Dog* to a Basset on *The Steve Allen Show* in 1956), TV series (*Columbo*, *EastEnders*), and movies (*Smokey and the Bandit*, *The Lost Treasure of Sawtooth Island*, *Nanny McPhee*, *The Smurfs*).



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