



We put a twinkle in your eye, a smile on your face, a song in your heart, skills in your hands, so that the time with your family dog will be some of the best times of your life.

# cheerfuldogs chronicles

cheerful dogs, happy people

Issue 13

## Healthy Dog: Rabies 101

Rabies is a fatal infection that is contagious to all mammals, including people. It's caused by a virus that affects the nervous system, producing symptoms such as fever, seizures, paralysis, slack jaw, inability to swallow, excessive salivation (hence the trademark foaming at the mouth), lack of coordination, unusual aggression or shyness.



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## Dog in the Spotlight: Doberman Pincher

Doberman Pinchers, affectionately known as Dobies, hail from Germany and were originally bred to be guard dogs. For that reason, Dobies are strong and resilient, fast runners, and hardwired to be alert. When well trained and socialised, Dobies are also affectionate family dogs and devoted companions. Psychologist Stanley Coren ranks the Dobie as the 5th most intelligent dog, pointing out his ability to learn quickly and pick up new cues. It makes sense, then, that Dobies are often chosen for police and rescue work.



With their stately and powerful presence, Dobies also make popular movie stars. The movie *Resident Evil* features a zombie Dobie called Cerberus; *K-911* stars James Belushi and a Dobie as Zeus the police dog; and the Disney movies *Up* and *Zootopia* both have (animated) Dobies on the payroll.

cont.

## ....Rabies 101

Singapore has been rabies-free since 1953, mainly due to strict conditions before import, health checks of imported animals, and quarantine after their arrival. These measures are necessary as rabies is endemic in the region, which means that Singapore is constantly at risk.

Because of our rabies-free status, vaccination of our dogs is usually limited to pets travelling overseas, according to the requirements of the country going to. To do our part to protect our pets and the community from rabies, we can:

- Obtain pets from reputable and legal sources, such as local animal welfare shelters
- Obtain the relevant import permits and health certificates should we import an animal from overseas
- License and microchip our pets for traceability.
- Report any smuggling activities or suspected cases of rabies to the AVA 24-hour hotline at 1800-476-1600.

Reference:

Agri-food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore: Rabies Information Brochure



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### Tips & Tools:

#### 4 Tips for Feeding a Senior Dog

**Prevent weight gain.** The kilos tend to sneak on as your dog ages, even if you maintain the same level of exercise. Your vet can advise on the ideal quantity for your dog.

**Avoid low-protein diets.** Foods labelled “senior” often contain reduced protein levels, but studies show senior dogs need normal protein levels to maintain muscle mass — even as they need to eat less overall.

**Consider supplements.** Gamma-linolenic acid (GLA) can help maintain healthy skin and coat. Fructooligosaccharides (FOS) promote beneficial gut bacteria, and antioxidants such as vitamin E and beta-carotene boost the immune system. Ask your vet what makes sense for your dog.

**Keep steady.** Older dogs get stressed more easily and struggle to adjust. Stick to your dog’s diet routines and if you make changes, do so gradually.



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