



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 18

## A World of Dogs: Cultivating Dog-smart Kids

For half a century, the noble-dog Lassie stereotype from TV and movies has endured in our hearts and minds. The ideal dog is gallant, has the vocabulary of a university student, and near-telepathic understanding of what's expected of him. It makes for lovely storytelling, but the imprint left on generations by fictional dogs, from Dorothy's Toto to Disney's Bolt, is one that sets many a first-time dog guardian up for disappointment and frustration. Oh, we know dogs are not people. But surely they understand the difference between a chewie and an Italian shoe? In fact, dogs are more like happy-go-lucky aliens trying to navigate our strange world of rules and expectations. To better help them, a good place for us to start is with greater understanding of how they see the world. Here, humane education plays a crucial role.



The term 'humane education' refers to the teaching of compassion and respect related to animal welfare, environmental issues, and ethical and sustainable practices. Parents and teachers can find resources online to teach children about all aspects of animal behaviour, training, and conservation. You may, for example, want to talk about an issue that has touched a child's life, such as animal cruelty, or living with an older pet.

cont.

## ... dog-smart kids

Why is this so important? For one thing, children educated about dogs are more likely to behave safely around them — which means the dogs are safer, too. And dog-savvy children grow up to be dog-savvy adults, a necessity in a world with ever-increasing numbers of dogs living close together. Keeping up with the latest science-based understanding in dog behaviour and training is now an important life skill. This is especially true for people in cities and suburbs where every stroll to the park or day spent in the garden involves some level of dog management, whether navigating a busy sidewalk or keeping the bark frequency at a level that won't drive neighbours to distraction. It's a good thing, then, that education programmes are more popular than ever and are expanding to allow more kids to have a proper understanding of pooches.



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### Healthy Dog: How much to feed your dog

When it comes to dog food one size fits none. Your dog's food intake should match her weight, age, overall health, living conditions, and activity level. Recommendations on the back of food packaging are usually a poor guide, first of all because they're general — they deal in averages. Second, the amounts are based on weight, which is just one factor of many. And third, there are wide discrepancies between what individual manufacturers recommend for a certain weight.

Instead of relying on the recommendations, think of them as a starting point. Make sure you know what your dog's ideal weight should be, roughly speaking. You can ask your vet, your breeder, or a canine nutritionist. Then keep an eye on your dog's weight and health and adjust her food intake as needed. Some dogs need more food than others. Puppies, for example, because growing up is hard work, and pregnant and lactating dogs, because nurturing puppies is hard work. Service- and -guide dogs, and dogs that engage in high-level dog sports also need more fuel. By contrast, couch potato dogs and senior dogs need less food.



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