



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 27

## Family Dog: Playing Hide-And-Seek With Your Dog

When the weather is good, it's the perfect time to get outside and play some games with your puppy or dog. Hide-and-peek is a great activity that encourages a solid recall, and it's a safe and easy way to involve your children in the training of the family dog. It's lots of fun for humans and dogs alike; and can be played both indoors and outdoors, as long as it's a safe place for the game.

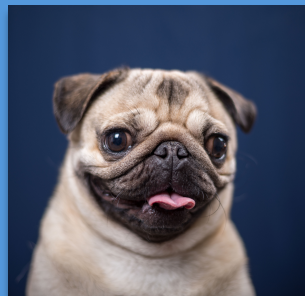


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## Dog in the Spotlight: The Pug

One of the so-called smushnose dogs, the pug packs a big personality in a compact container. Clownish, fun-loving, wheezy, affectionate, and dignified, pugs can be traced back to pre-B.C. China. Marie Antoinette had pugs, as did Queen Victoria (she had 36, in fact). Pug charm conquers high culture (William Hogarth's 1745 self-portrait *The Painter and his Pug*) and popular entertainment (in the *Men in Black* movies) with ease.

Would-be pug owners need to be aware, however, of the health problems such squashed-faced breeds face. Selective breeding and prioritising appearance over health has left them prone to skin disorders, eye ulcers, and breathing difficulties. Some of the individual dogs are really suffering. The British Veterinary Association encourages people to consider healthier versions with longer snouts, or cross breeds. If you have a pug, have a vet assess his health annually, and prevent him from becoming overweight.



cont.

## ....hide-and-peek

If you don't have a fenced-in area outdoors, let a long leash drag after your dog so you can easily get control if he wanders off. Second, get some yummy treats ready. If your kids play, have them hold a spoon smeared with peanut butter or give them treats to hold in a shallow bowl, so you don't risk an overly enthusiastic dog taking treats too roughly from little hands. Have one adult hold the dog and the other person (either an older child or an adult with a smaller child) go hide. At first make the hiding place easy. Let go of the dog and encourage him to go find the person hiding in an excited voice. When he reaches his find, reward him and then begin again, gradually making the game harder.



### Tips & Tools: A Home Safety Checklist

**Unsafe chewables.** Don't let your dog chew on things like leashes, rope, or garden hose, which can cause intestinal obstruction.

**Chemicals.** Keep all household toxins (bleaches, detergents, disinfectants) well out of reach of your dog — also insecticides, human medications, pool chemicals, paint thinner, and automotive products. Don't use chemical cleaning liquids where your dog eats and drinks.

**Toxic plants.** Many popular household plants can be dangerous, even fatal, to your dog if he decides to sample a leaf. Common culprits are Dumb Cane (*Dieffenbachia*), Money Plant (*Epipremnum*), Sago Palm (*Cycas*), Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis*), Flaming Katy (*Kalanchoe*), and Dwarf Umbrella-Tree (*Schefflera*).

**Prevent falls.** Use baby gates and screens to restrict your dog's access to high windows and staircases where falls can occur. Invest in non-skid mats for floor areas where your dog often runs; slipping can cause torn ligaments.

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