



Ease your worries knowing that your dog is walked by a professional.

# cheerfuldogs chronicles

Certified. Force-free. Dog-centred

Issue 32

## Dogs In Action: Rollerblading With Your Dog

Think blades and dogs don't mix? That depends. Certainly, just grabbing the leash and strapping on the blades is a bad idea — one sudden dog move and you're down. If you love to rollerblade and would like to share the open paths with your dog, train her until it's safe for both of you. First, practise basic behaviour cues until your dog's response to heel and wait is solid. To be safe, work on leave it too; you don't want an errant squirrel to derail your nice outing. Second, find the right leash and harness. You want something that will keep your dog close and yet comfortable. And third, practise without blades. Walk or run by your dog and practise all the behaviours you'll need for rollerblading: forward skating, braking, turning, going backwards, etc.



When the two of you are ready to try with blades, go slow (it might take several sessions before it's safe to speed up). Now the paths are yours. Remember to blade only in rollerblade or skating-friendly areas. Always ensure that your dog enjoys the activity, and that her enthusiasm for it grows to match yours. Take frequent breaks to water and treat her with something juicy and special.

# Dogs In Action: Seizure-Alert Dogs

As the name suggests, seizure-alert dogs can detect an oncoming seizure in people and warn them so they can take precautions. To people with epilepsy or other convulsive disorders, a seizure-alert dog can mean the difference between a normal life and isolation. What exactly the dogs alert to remains a mystery. It could be subtle changes in behaviour or odour or it could be something different altogether.

Because we don't know this yet, seizure-alert dogs have to be tested for the ability before they can be trained as service dogs. Reports suggest the ability can develop over time in dogs living with people who suffer from seizures, but there's no

guarantee. However, some dogs reliably alert to seizures by whining, pawing, pacing, or barking persistently. They can serve as canine early warning systems, giving the seizing person time to take medication or lie down in a safe place.

Both seizure-alert dogs and seizure-response dogs (service dogs that don't alert before a seizure) are trained to do many other helpful things. They might get help, activate an alarm during an episode, or fetch a telephone.



Cheerful Dogs, Happy People  
cheerfuldogs.com

## Tips & Tools: Disaster Preparedness

**Microchip and ID tag your dog.** Compile a list of places that might board animals in an emergency, e.g. friends and family, boarding facilities, or local veterinarians.

**Make an Emergency Kit.** Wherever you go, you'll need supplies. Gather the essentials in an easy-to-carry duffle bag. Bring: medications and medical records; leashes, harnesses, and/or a carrier; current photos, in case your dog gets lost; food, water, bowls, and can opener; notes about feeding schedules, medical conditions and behaviour problems in case your dog has to be boarded.

**Plan for evacuation.** Health & safety regulations often preclude bringing pets (except service animals) into evacuation shelters — so plan ahead!

## cheerfuldogs.com

*Your go-to trainer for enlightened dog lovers*

Website: [cheerfuldogs.com](http://cheerfuldogs.com)

## cheerfuldogswalking.com

*Professional dog walking you can trust*

Website: [cheerfuldogswalking.com](http://cheerfuldogswalking.com)

Tel: 9630 3884

Email: [cheerfuldogswalking@gmail.com](mailto:cheerfuldogswalking@gmail.com)

Save the environment, access our e-newsletters on our websites



Follow us



Supported by

