



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 33

## Living With Dogs: Tots & Tail-Waggers

To a dog, a baby is a very strange creature — tiny, roly-poly, emitting coos and gurgles, and kicking and grasping at everything. What's more, a baby is an attention magnet and a routine changer. Once baby arrives, life as Fido knew it is never again the same. Some dogs take this in their stride; others struggle with the new world order. But babies and dogs can live happily together. Some pointers:



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## Dog in the Spotlight: Golden Retriever

Few dogs appear on more 'best of' lists than the Golden Retriever. One of the most popular breeds in the world, Golden Retrievers rank fourth in Dr. Stanley Coren's *The Intelligence of Dogs*, boast the first ever dog to surf with special-needs kids (Ricochet), and hold the world record for most tennis balls in a dog's mouth: five, all at once (Augie). Golden Retrievers are said to be easy to motivate, prone to over-exuberance, usually confident, and highly social. They are said to not care for extended alone-time and have made excellent surrogate mothers for everything from kittens to tiger cubs.

Originally a gundog bred to retrieve waterfowl, Golden Retrievers make ideal sporting and activity dogs. Vigorous daily exercise is a must. If your Golden is prone to grab anything within six metres, train a reliable recall or *leave it* cue.



cont.

## ....tots & tail-waggers

**Before baby.** Well before your baby arrives polish your dog's basic manners. Make sure he comes when called, sits when asked, and knows loose-leash walking. Practise walking your dog with the stroller and having him sit for people coming in the door while you hold a doll. Arrange for a dog walker to take your dog out regularly for at least the first couple of months — a well-exercised dog will have a much easier time adjusting to a changed routine at home. And introduce some of those changes in routine now. Put your dog in his confinement/safe area for 10–15 minutes regularly with a stuffed Kong or chew bone.

**After baby.** Dogs don't experience jealousy, but they do notice when they get much less love and attention, so give your baby and your dog attention at the same time. Feed your dog before feeding the baby in the same room and praise your dog while carrying your baby. When baby is sleeping, have your dog practice downtime in his crate or on his bed. That way, Fido learns to associate good things with baby's presence.

**The number one rule:** Never leave your baby alone with your dog. However wonderful your dog is around your baby, it's not safe to leave them alone together. Dogs may inadvertently hurt babies when investigating or trying to play, whereas kids shriek and gesture suddenly, often startling dogs. And children in general, small children especially, have to learn to interact appropriately with dogs. Your best bet is to always supervise.



## Healthy Dog: Canine Hydrotherapy

We humans have been “taking the waters” for our health for thousands of years, and over the last decade, more dogs have been getting their paws wet for the same reason. Canine hydrotherapy (also called aqua or swim therapy) is essentially warm-water swimming and/or massage for curative purposes. Some veterinarians recommend hydrotherapy for athletic conditioning, pre- and post-op care, reducing inflammation around an injury, as well as relieving arthritis and other chronic conditions. It's also said to be ideal for exercising older or overweight dogs because water supports the body and takes the weight off sore joints.



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