



To walk with a dog... is to share his world. What sights and sounds he encounters. What past and present smells he reads. To stretch his legs, to bask in the sun, to discover and wind his way through this brave new human world.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

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A World of Dogs: A Genius for Survival

Is one-of-a-kind diversity a contradiction in terms? No, that's just dogs for you. *Canis lupus familiaris* is the only species on the planet that contains the extreme variety of the Great Dane and the Chihuahua, the Dachshund and the Rottweiler, the Yorkshire Terrier and the Bernese Mountain Dog. There are, give or take a few, four hundred breeds within this one species. Dog lovers like to think it's a dog-human thing, wrought by the special bond, the partnership that has had people and pooches sharing campfires for at least 15,000 years. (Possibly much longer: A study by evolutionary biologist Robert Wayne suggests humans domesticated dogs as long ago as 40,000 years.)



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Because of this connection, we have been breeding dogs to meet our work and leisure needs for

Dog In the Spotlight: Italian Greyhound

This slender, smooth-coated twiglet combines the doe eyes and sensitivity of a miniature Bambi with the harefooted quickness befitting a tiny cousin of the Greyhound. Affectionately known as 'Iggies,' Italian Greyhounds are an ancient breed, found in pictorials as far back as old Egypt and first-century Rome. Possibly bred originally for hunting small prey (and still quite willing to follow those instincts), an Iggy's main job in

modern times is to be a companion, a role she fulfills with grace, playfulness, and utter devotion. Her refinement, style, and portability has earned her a place at many a royal court, including that of Mary, Queen of Scots; Queen Victoria; Catherine the Great; and Maud, Queen of Norway.



cont.

....Survival genius

several millennia: Collies and Kelpies to herd our sheep, Huskies to pull our sleds, Afghan Hounds and Basenjis to help us hunt. But although humans are obviously a large part of the reason dogs are so diverse today, another part we must not forget is natural selection. Dogs are naturally malleable, for example, they tend to grow larger in northern climes to cope with the cold. They have very variable and plastic DNA, the kind that allows for the deliberate cultivation of digging skills, longer noses, or skin folds that capture smell molecules? This allows dogs to change so quickly. In just a few generations, we have created dogs that are wildly divergent in type and ability.

There are an estimated 900 million dogs in the world today, so it's hard to deny that dogs as a subspecies possess a genius for survival.



Tips & Tools: Cleaning Doggie Stains & Odours

Carpets and upholstery. Soak up as much of the mess as you can. Rinse the area with plenty of cool water, then soak up the water. Repeat as needed until the accident spot is clean and barely damp. Finally apply a high-quality pet odour neutraliser. Avoid steam cleaners — the heat can make stains and smells set permanently.

Clothes and linens. Machine wash either with an enzymatic cleaner or by adding 450 grammes of baking soda to your regular detergent. If possible, air-dry the items. Again, heat can make remaining animal protein bond to the material.

Walls. Washable paints can be cleaned with enzymatic cleaners, but generally, if paint is damaged, you'll have to refinish the surface. Consult with your local hardware store for options.

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