



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 36

## Dogs In Action: Guide Dogs

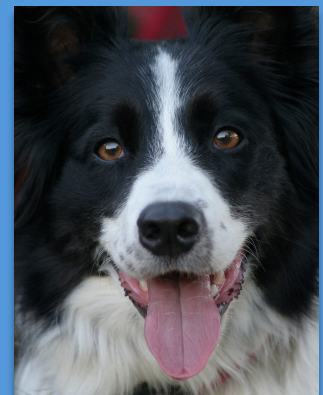
Probably the best-known assistance dog is the guide dog. We may have seen a Lab (or Golden Retriever or German Shepherd) wearing the special harness while carefully guiding their blind owner across the street or down the sidewalk. Here are three interesting facts about guide dogs you might not know:

1. A guide dog can't read traffic signals. He takes directional cues from his owner, who judges traffic by sounds. However, if it's not safe to go when the owner says "forward," the guide dog has been taught what's called intelligent disobedience and won't proceed until no cars are close or the path is clear of obstacles.



## Dog in the Spotlight: Border Collie

A medium-sized dog with a maximum-sized engine. Border Collies excel at agility, flyball, disc dog competitions, canine freestyle, tracking — and make excellent search & rescue dogs. Topping Stanley Coren's list of intelligent dogs, these highly trainable exercise- and mental-stimulation addicts are happiest when they have a job to do. Originally bred for herding, Border Collies still work on farms in many parts of the world, but some now hold jobs in animal cognition research, too. One dog, Chaser, was famous for identifying and retrieving 1,022 toys by name. Famous past fanciers include Queen Victoria and 18th century Scottish poet laureate Robert Burns. In popular culture, Border Collies of note are Fly and Rex, the herding dogs in the movie *Babe*.



cont.

## ....guide dogs

2. You may know not to pet a working guide dog, but do you know why? Your well-meant cuddle isn't a simple distraction, it's the equivalent of taking the wheel from someone who's driving. One of the biggest challenges guide dog owners face is public interference. So, no matter how adorable that pooch is, resist the urge to touch.

3. Guide dogs are carefully matched with their new owners. In addition to personality, lifestyle, and living arrangement considerations, the pair is



matched down to how fast they walk and how much pull the person prefers from a dog.



## Healthy Dog: Bad Breath In Dogs

Bad breath is a common but highly treatable problem in dogs. The smell, caused by bacteria in your dog's mouth, stomach, or lungs, most often signals a dental or gastric issue. Sudden or unusually foul breath, however, can indicate serious illness. In all cases, a visit to the vet is important. Don't assume that unpleasant "dog breath" is normal and something you have to live with. Think of your dog's oral hygiene as you would your own: An integral part of daily well-being and long-term health. Some prevention tips:

1. Feed your dog high-quality food.
2. Brush your dog's teeth regularly. Every day is ideal; twice a week is a minimum.
3. Give your dog hard chew toys. Chewing is nature's teeth-cleaning tool for dogs.
4. Use breath-improvement products. Good ones exist but do your research, so you don't buy something that's essentially a biscuit and nothing more.

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