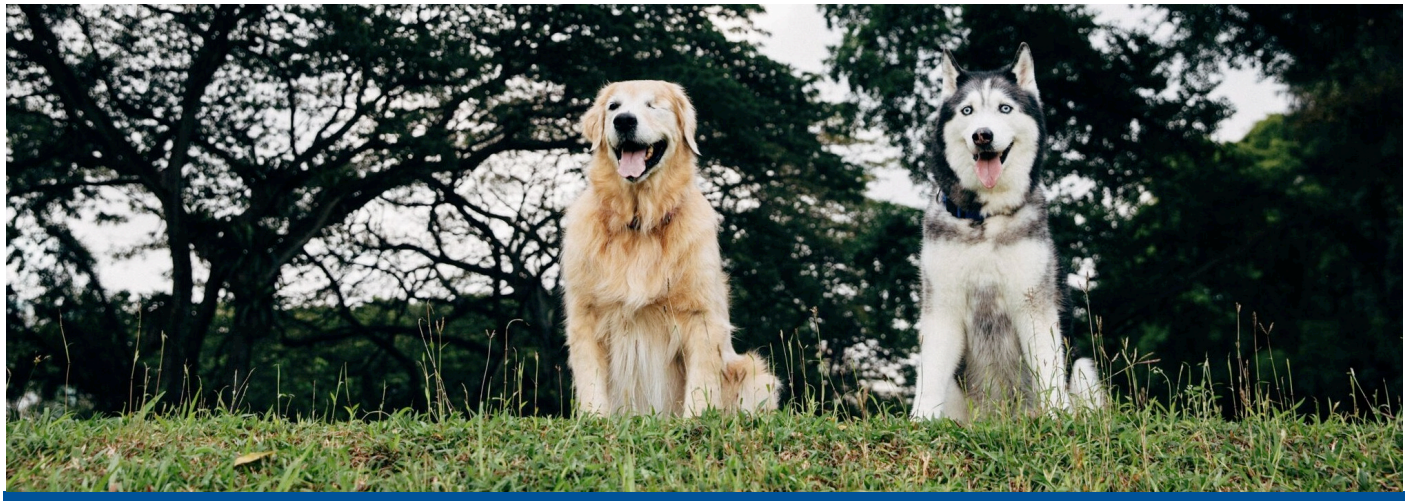


We put a twinkle in your eye, a smile on your face, a song in your heart, skills in your hands, so that the time with your family dog will be some of the best times of your life.

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Issue 43

Dogs In Action: Doga (Yoga for Dogs)

Humans have engaged in yoga since ancient times, and our modern era has seen a surge in the practice all over the world. Recently that surge even includes our best friends. Given the trend of extending human health practices to our canine companions (think canine massage, acupuncture, aromatherapy, Reiki, etc.), it should come as no surprise to hear about doga, or yoga for dogs. A number of yoga studios overseas are offering doga classes, inviting dogs and their people to enjoy the benefits of yoga together. It is claimed that doga can





Healthy Dog: Ear Infections

Dog's ears are impressive. They can swivel to locate the source of a sound in 6/100 of a second, for example. However, the design of canine ear canals leaves something to be desired. Their shape (a downward plunge followed by a horizontal tract) can leave debris stuck too easily, which is why dogs — floppy-eared ones in particular — are prone to ear infections. Telltale signs include: ear scratching, coloured discharge, odour, redness, swelling, crusted or scabby skin, and impaired hearing. Also pay attention if your dog wipes his ear on the floor or furniture, or if he shakes his head a lot.

To prevent infections, gently dry your dog's ears after swimming or baths, and occasionally clean his ears with a cotton ball dampened with a solution recommended by your vet. If you suspect a problem, it's important not to self-diagnose. Bacteria or yeast causes most ear infections, and both require veterinary treatment.

cont.

….doga

promote flexibility, increased blood circulation, and quicker recovery from strenuous walks or play sessions.

But you don't need to attend class to get your dog in on the action. Like cats, dogs may stretch thoroughly several times a day. Yoga for dogs can be a natural extension of this stretching habit — a fun, healthful, and relaxing activity you can share with your dog any time and anywhere.

A World of Dogs: Dogs In the Workplace



One of the hardest things about living with dogs is leaving them behind every day for the office. Those big puppy-dog eyes can really do a number on a dog lover. Some guardians work in places that welcome dogs. It is said that employers report reduced absenteeism and longer average work hours among employees who bring their dogs to work. In turn, it is claimed that employees who share their workdays with their dogs say it boosts their creativity and productivity while also increasing positive social interactions with colleagues.

Of course, not all workplaces are appropriate for our four-legged companions. Not all dogs are a match for those that allow them, either. Shy and fearful dogs are likely happier left in the predictable peace and quiet of home, where strangers don't appear around every corner. Dogs that are uncomfortable around fellow canines may find the confined spaces of a typical office — cubicles, lifts, hallways, and the like — too challenging to share. And most dogs with lots of extra energy will prefer a dog walker over having to chill in the office for hours on end.



Consider the comfort of coworkers, too. Live with a dedicated barker? All that canine shouting can be distracting to others' productivity. If you do bring your dog to work, engage in positive reinforcement training to teach your dog office manners like sitting to say hello, and staying on her bed when you need to focus. Invest in a good baby gate if you don't have an office door. Keep stain and odour remover on hand, and don't forget to bring plenty of chews and toys to keep your dog gainfully employed while you work.



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