



✧ Highlights ✧

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**"Expect your dog to act
like a dog. He's not being bad.
He's just being a dog."
- Jean Donaldson**



LIVING WITH DOGS

Nothing For Free

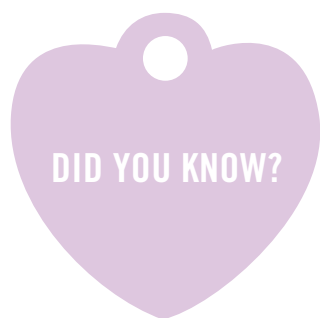
Repetition is one of the pillars of successful dog training. It's a pillar of any kind of training, really, which is why dog trainers repeat this fact to their human clients until they're hoarse. But oftentimes, when the lessons end, when the class is over, when the initial enthusiasm wanes, practice sessions fall by the wayside. People lead busy lives and few can put dedicated training time aside every day or every other day in perpetuity.



No need, however, to eventually resign yourself to a dog who sits sporadically at best and only vaguely remembers the intricacies of a 'down.' Simply get into the habit of applying the 'nothing for free' principle. Which amounts to: Whatever your dog wants, don't give it away for free. From now on, doors are not opened willy-nilly; balls are not simply thrown. For those, and countless other privileges, ask your dog to say 'please' by sitting, doing a 'down,' to spin or perform whatever trick he knows.

'Nothing for free' has many advantages. For one, good manners become part of everyday life rather than being exclusive to a finite training session. Training becomes linked, in the dog's mind, to all his favorite activities—having his leash put on for a walk and taken off at the park, swimming, digging a hole, being allowed inside or outside, being invited onto the couch, getting his dinner or best chew toy, or playing tug with you. When all good things must be preceded by a 'please,' your pooch has strong motivation to behave politely. Soon, it becomes second nature.

The occasional training session is still valuable, for example when you want to teach your dog something new. But most of the time, using life as a reward will, literally, get the trick done.



Record-Breakers

1. Fastest car window opened.

Striker, a Canadian border collie, rolled down a manual window in 11.34 seconds on September 1, 2004.

2. Highest jump.

At the 2006 Purina Incredible Dog Challenge, greyhound Cindarella May cleared 68 in.

3. Most golf balls swallowed.

In April 2004 28 golf balls were surgically removed from German Shepherd Libby's stomach. Her owner, Mr Wardrop of Manchester, UK, knew his dog had a fondness for picking up balls, but had no idea she ingested the white treats.

4. Smartest dog/most tricks.

At the time of her death in 2006, famously brainy toy poodle Chanda Leah mastered over 500 tricks, including bowling, finding a specific chocolate bar from a selection, and playing the saxophone.

5. Smallest drug sniffing dog.

Pride and joy of an Ohio sheriff, Midge the 7-pound Chihuahua/Rat Terrier is believed to be the world's smallest police officer. Her specialty is to sniff out marijuana hidden deep inside cars.



A WORLD OF DOGS

Bestselling Material

Aesop wrote his fables a very long time ago. In 1877 *Black Beauty* galloped onto the stage, and mid-twentieth century, John Steinbeck wrote about his poodle-accompanied roadtrip in *Travels with Charlie*. Stories about animals have always been around, but precious few transcend the fluffy-edged sphere of children's literature. Not so anymore. Ten or twelve years ago booksellers noticed a trend: Books about dogs began to show consistently solid sales, almost regardless of subject. Training bible or glossy coffee table photography, it mattered little.



Today, what was a trend has become a wave. Once the sole province of ardent fanciers, dog-themed books now poke their noses onto bestseller lists every few months, even penetrating the fiction list, as in the case of Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. But the big winners are non-fiction, mostly memoir and personal essays. Who hasn't

heard of, if not read, John Grogan's mega-hit *Marley & Me*, about his family's adorable, dysfunctional Labrador? Not long ago, Temple Grandin's *Animals in Translation* earned bestseller status, and a memoir by Jon Katz (*Dog Days*) and essays by Pulitzer Prize-winner Anna Quindlen (*Good Dog. Stay.*) made strong showings.

Why this groundswell of enthusiasm for doggie literature, in an age of plummeting book sales? The obvious answer is that dogs and other companion animals are more popular than ever before in history (a recent study by the American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that 68.7 million American households have pets, a rise of 12.4% since 2001), so the pool of interested readers has grown.

But surely the demand for dog-related books—along with demand for designer collars, raw food, dog walkers, poop scooping services, and more—also indicates the unique position dogs have come to occupy in the American family. Long our hard-working ally, dogs have moved into our homes and hearts in a way previously reserved for human children. According to another study, more than half of dog owners consider their pet 'an integral part of the family.'

Then again, the truth may boil down to this: Dogs, with all their lovable foibles, make for vastly more interesting reading than, say, goldfish.

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DOGS IN ACTION

Pipeline Detection

For more than 12,000 years, dogs have worked with humans. They've herded our livestock, hunted alongside us, and pulled us across otherwise impassable frozen expanses. And while modern dogs are more often family pets and companions first and, say, ranch hands second, on the whole their job description keeps getting longer—and more extraordinary. Patrolling pipelines for gas leaks is one example. Manmade equipment exists that can do the job, but it lacks the accuracy, portability, and weather-resistance of *Canis familiaris*. A well-trained sniffer dog can cover nine miles of pipeline a day, terrain permitting, and asks only kibble in return.

Gas leaks, however, are not the only pipeline-related threats. Invasive species can clog water pipes, costing the company who owns the pipe billions and, worse still, devastating the local ecosystem. In Southern California, a freshwater mollusk called the quagga mussel—an unwelcome stowaway from European ballast ships—has colonized parts of the waterworks. To stem the spread of the clam, the Department of Fish and Game use—you guessed it—sniffer dogs. Such specialized state employees are expensive to train, but once they graduate, their effectiveness trumps all other detection methods.



HEALTHY DOG

The Senior Years

A graying muzzle, slower responses, and an ever-stiffening gait—in most dogs the exterior signs of aging are obvious. Behavioral changes, on the other hand, are easier to misinterpret or miss altogether. Older dogs might bark or whine more, have accidents in the house, snap or growl, or become impatient, anxious, restless at night, or disorientated. Some problems are merely the inconveniences of advancing years, others could owe to underlying health problems. Telling the difference is tricky. Your best bet is to educate yourself well, pay close attention to your aging pooch, and seek your Vet's opinion.

To learn more, visit The Senior Dog Project at www.srdogs.com for a wealth of information collated from reputable medical and behavioral sources. Or invest in Janice Borzendowski's comprehensive and well-researched book *Caring for Your Aging Dog*.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Yorkie

Some say independent, some say stubborn. Certainly the terrier ancestry is clearly present in the bold, intelligent, occasionally aloof yorkie. Ironically, given today's often pampered, bejeweled dogs, the yorkie hails from rugged Yorkshire in the North of England and was originally used as a ratter. Silky hair and teeny stature fool some into thinking the yorkie is more toy than dog. This is not true, of course. Yorkies require exercise, consistency, and size-appropriate dog-dog interactions to be happy and healthy. Somewhat challenging to train—due to that individualistic streak—yorkies rarely make their mark in dog sports, preferring instead to enter the public sphere on the arms of famous owners, not all of whom, incidentally, are female or blond. Bruce Willis has a yorkie, so does pro football player Brett Favre.

To give a yorkie a home, visit:
www.yorkierescue.com.



OUR SERVICES

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Preventing Dog Theft

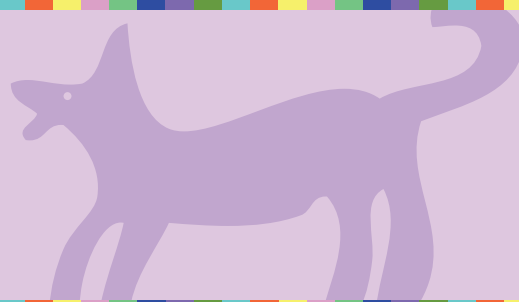
- ✓ **DON'T:** Leave your dog alone in the yard or garden unless your fence is sturdy and whole.
- ✓ **DON'T:** Tie your dog outside a store.
- ✓ **DO:** Tag and microchip your dog. Keep his license up-to-date.
- ✓ **DO:** Make sure your dog has a bullet-proof recall.

If Your Dog is Stolen

- ✓ Search the neighborhood, on foot or in a car. Check basements and garages. Call and whistle loudly. Ask friends or family members for help.
- ✓ Call local animal shelters, pet hospitals, and Animal Care & Control.
- ✓ Write a 'Lost Dog—Reward' flyer with a photo and distribute in schools, churches, dog parks, etc.
- ✓ Beware of scammers. Owners of lost pets are frequently targeted. Never pay a reward until you're literally handed your dog.



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