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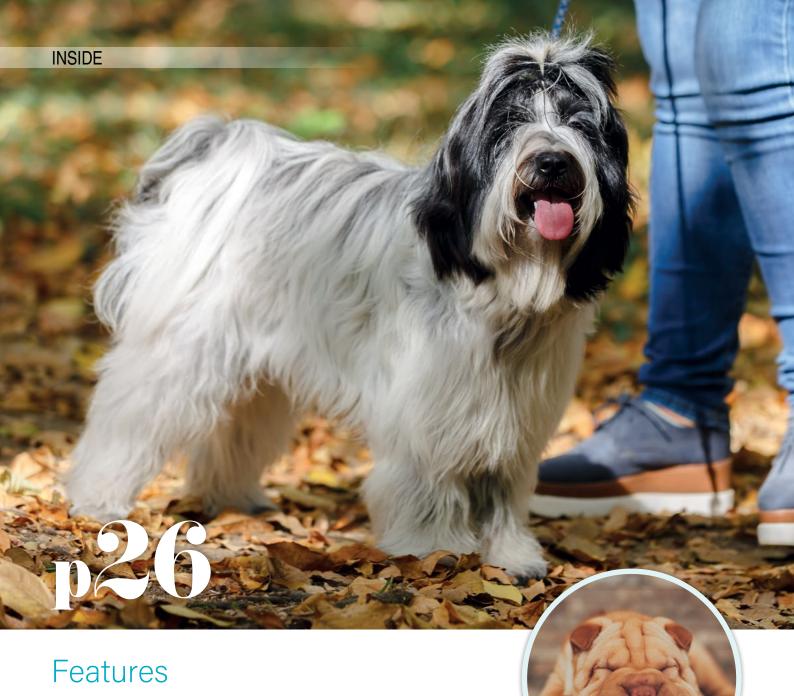
Welcome to issue 49

Inside this issue we look beyond the companionship dogs bring and find out what exactly we can learn from them. We look at how a healthy diet can help the condition of liver disease, share our advice on how you can teach your dog impulse control, explore how to care for itchy skin and discuss the growing trend of dressing dogs up and ask is it such a good idea?

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Jennifer

X



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Chew this...

Humanimal Trust Appoints New Chief Executive

Humanimal Trust, the charity founded in 2014 by Supervet Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, has appointed a new Chief Executive.

Joe Bailey joins the charity in November from RSPCA Assured, where she has been Head of Farming, Welfare and Wellbeing for the last seven years, having started her RSPCA career as an Inspector and with a total of more than 20 years working in the animal welfare sector.

Humanimal Trust drives collaboration between vets, doctors and researchers so that all humans and animals benefit from sustainable and equal medical progress, but not at the expense of an animal's life. This is One Medicine.

Looking forward to her new role, Joe said: "Although I feel honoured to be appointed as CEO, it's not the title that is important, it's the opportunity to be who I am, living and working my

values, and being part of the Humanimal Trust vision alongside dedicated and passionate people. The pandemic has given us a massive opportunity to show how a One Medicine approach will enable us to be stronger together and create a sustainable future for us all. Our priorities must be centred around awareness, education and raising funds to achieve our objectives and maximise our impact."

Humanimal Trust's work covers five streams of activity, spelling out its mantra I-CARE:

Influence - we care about bringing together everyone who knows and cares about One Medicine to create a road map for change in public policy and at the clinical coalface.

Collaboration - we care about creating opportunities to bring together human and veterinary professionals and students to learn from one another by demonstrating One Medicine

at work.

Awareness - we care that more people should know and understand the benefits of One Medicine for humans and animals, about non-animal alternatives to laboratory models and how much human and animal medicine can learn from one another's clinical practice.

Research - we care about research - funding it, encouraging it, supporting it, shouting about it - that could benefit humans and animals without the use of laboratory animal models.

Education - we care about learning - we care about every child learning about the connections between humans and animals; about veterinary and human medical students learning together and from one another; about professionals learning continuously from their peers.

Find out more https://www.humanimaltrust.org.uk



Be conker aware

A leading canine first aid expert has called for dog-owners to be conker aware after treating pets who have ingested the surprisingly poisonous item.

Many people like to collect conkers, especially children, and conkers are said to deter spiders if placed in the corner of the room.

But conkers, which fall from horse-chestnut trees, contain a toxin which, if eaten by a dog, can cause them to vomit, have diarrhoea or even collapse.

Qualified veterinary nurse Rachel Bean, who wrote the iPET Network's qualification in Canine First Aid, said: "Conkers seem to be a celebrated part of autumn starting, but every year my practice sees pets who have ingested conkers, and devastated owners who simply didn't realise that aesculin, which is found in the tree fruit is toxic to dogs.

"If you suspect that a dog you are caring for may have eaten something poisonous contact your vet straight away as they could die.

"Vomiting is the most common effect after ingestion of conkers and other potential signs include abdominal discomfort, diarrhoea, lethargy. Again, gastrointestinal obstruction is a potential risk.

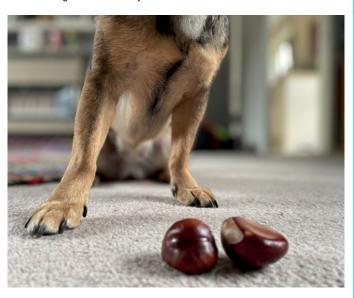
"It is important to be aware on your walks out of the house too, as they can present like a ball to playful pups, which can lead to them chewing and ingesting them.

"People also think that conkers deter spiders, so place them at ground level in their homes, and they then run the risk of becoming a risky plaything for your pet.

"The safest thing to do is to keep conkers out of your house entirely, and always make sure to keep your dog on a lead when walking near shedding horse-chestnut trees."

Rachel, travels around the UK giving canine first aid demonstrations, and is an ambassador for the national Safe Pets and People campaign which is calling for mandatory first aid qualifications for all pet professionals.

She added: "Everyone wants the best for their pets, and many people simply don't know what hazards are truly out there. Hopefully this year the dangers of conkers to dogs will be as widely known as chocolate is at Christmas and Easter."



'Save Pets of Ukraine' campaign calls on UK pet-loving population for support



This Christmas, 'Save Pets of Ukraine' campaign calls on UK pet-loving population to support abandoned pets in war-torn Ukraine

The 'Save Pets of Ukraine' campaign, launched by U-Hearts, the Pet Industry Federation (PIF) and spottydog communications in the UK, is calling on the pet-loving population to unite and support abandoned pets in Ukraine to see them through the winter.

They're asking for your support to provide the all-important essentials these animals need for survival.

Anyone look to help will be able to order packages designed for small, medium, and large pets, filled with products that are in demand, including food and blankets. These packages will then be sent directly to the pets in need.

Chief Executive Officer of U-Hearts, Yuriy Tokarski, said: "We've been overwhelmed by the support here in the UK so far and with the harsh winter on

its way, we're now asking anyone who can support to donate a Christmas box to an animal in need.

"Our four-legged friends can't save themselves from the war, but your love and support can do a great deal." Further details of how you can support the campaign will shortly be released on the Save Pets of Ukraine website https://u-hearts.foundation/save-pets-



ukraine/



A life Well-lived?

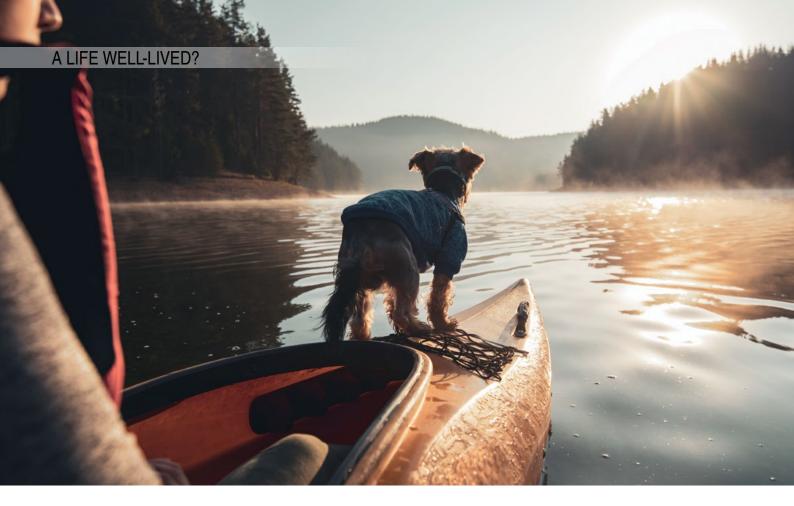
Beyond the companionship, joy and love which dogs bring, is there more we can learn from them?

"A life well lived is a precious gift of hope and strength and grace, From someone who has made our world a brighter, better place" - Anon.

ogs have been part of our lives since the dawn of human civilisation when huntergatherers settled down on the plains and began building farming communities. Since that time, canines have evolved at an unprecedented rate. They have diversified into the many breeds we see daily and become central to our existence as workers and companions. As devoted pet parents, we commit considerable time and resources to ensure our pooches can live their best lives and take

satisfaction from the happiness and well-being of the fourlegged companions who join us on the path we follow through life.

But beyond the companionship, joy and love which dogs bring, is there more we can learn from them? Could they show us how to live life to the best ourselves? Having taught yoga and meditation for some 12 years before retraining as a canine behaviourist, I have seen how dogs embody the tenets of these ancient practices and offer the perfect example of a well-lived life.



"Most dogs will soon be your friend again and greet you with enthusiasm the following day."

Tomorrow is another day

Dogs are amazingly forgiving. Even in situations of extreme neglect, their trust in a potential saviour shines through, and they learn to love again. Let them remind you not to hold onto grievances; let the bad stuff go. The jury is still out on whether dogs hold grudges. Indeed, they remember unpleasant things and may be wary when something similar happens, or they return to that place. But in general, we get much more hung up on feeling guilty about obliging them to participate in necessary evils than they do. Sometimes a trip to the vet or taking a tablet is an unenviable necessity for dogs and their owners. Approach these situations in a matter-of-fact manner and conclude the unpleasantness as swiftly as possible. Most dogs will soon be your friend again and greet you with enthusiasm the following day.

Focussing on the negatives uses up valuable time that could be spent on something more positive. Dogs don't overthink their problems. Life is quite black and white for a dog, a kind of binary approach where they either do it or don't. So often, insignificant issues are magnified by our ability to dwell on them. We create the problem ourselves as our mind rocks along the crazy rollercoaster of 'What if?' On the other hand, dogs frequently take each day as it comes, forgiving, forgetting and moving on.

Appreciate the little things in life

Ask any person you know what they most want in life, and you could get a list involving the need for lots of time and a

whole stack of free money. A shiny new car, a bigger house, a fabulous holiday and no need to ever work again. We assume everything will be perfect once that dream has been achieved. Of course, there can be thrills to savour when we reach that goal, but how many little feelings of happiness pass us by because we fail to see the charms of our everyday existence? If you could ask your dog, I wonder what their answer would be. Time spent having cuddles? A slow meandering walk with all the time in the world to sniff? A warm cosy bed at night and a spot in the sun or by the fire. We can see their pleasure in how they hold their tail, their ears' casual slant and their soft gaze. Not to mention their relaxed, loose posture allowing them to wiggle with enthusiasm. Just being there for them can mean so much. Mine sleep all day whether I am in or out, but I have this sneaking feeling they prefer to sleep with me than without me. Sometimes life gives us so much, yet we are so busy aspiring to the next achievement we have no time to appreciate that we already have all we need.

Be present - pay attention

When you are focussed on your thoughts, you usually live in the past or the future. Planning ahead, looking back, ignoring the current moment to dwell on something else. Focus on the here and now is a key concept in mindfulness. It's the ability to experience each moment as it arises, fully present to that moment in time. Our dogs are tuned to the present moment, sometimes, even when they are asleep. I'm not sure I have ever caught one daydreaming! They are inveterate people

A LIFE WELL-LIVED?

watchers, sometimes apparently detecting our thoughts before we even have them. They pay attention to body language we don't know we are expressing and interpret our mood from our expressions and hormonal changes. Mindfulness meditation on an object is a great way to

start being more present, as it offers a great focal point for your awareness and attention. The object is frequently your breath, but what about meditating on your sleeping dog's breath? The rhythmic flow is calming, and what better way to be present than by paying attention to your dog?

Another perfect time to
practise mindfulness is out
on a walk with your dog.
Consider what you typically
do on your walks. Do you
catch up on phone calls or texts?
Perhaps you meet other walkers for
a chat while your dogs play together.
Or do you stride along with yesterday's
worries spinning through your mind, interspersed
with tomorrow's to-do list and next year's holiday plans?

Rather than allowing yourself to be drawn into these mental

acrobatics, what about instead noticing your experience of

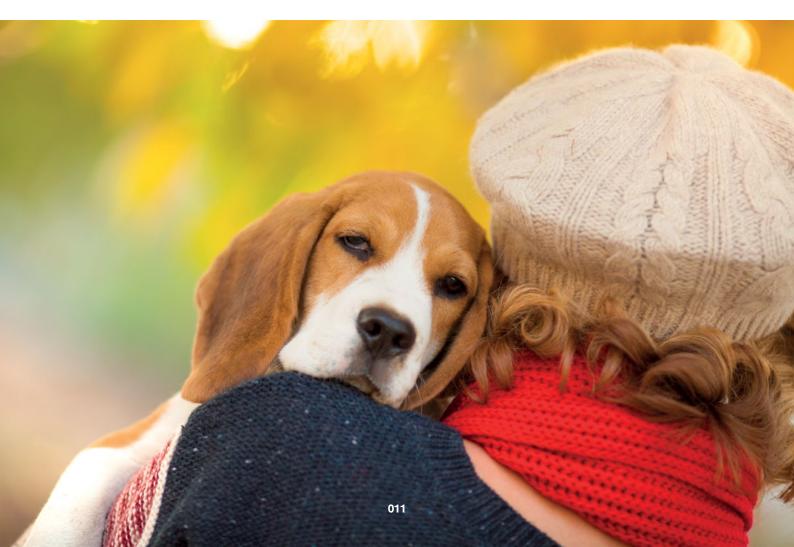
your surroundings? Listen to birdsong or the sound your dog makes as they walk. Be aware of the feel of the lead in your hand or the sensation of air against your skin. Watch your dog as they sniff and explore the world of scent. Observe

> their posture, how their whiskers move, and the breath moving in their ribcage and belly. See the change in the shape

> > of their eyes and how often they blink. Be present to that moment in time spent with your canine companion.

Take time out

So much of our life is full of 'doing.' If busyness has become a way of life, this can be surprisingly hard. We live in a culture that venerates busyness and achievement, where having too much to do is a virtue and taking time out is considered sluggish. Seen from the perspective of busyness, even potentially enjoyable activities become a chore, a hurdle to overcome on the way to achieving...what exactly? On the other hand, dogs are much more about 'being.' They don't generally have a 'to-do' list; instead, life unfolds as it will. Your dog may know when it's time for a walk or a meal,



A LIFE WELL-LIVED?

but overall, they go with the flow. An afternoon napping on a cosy bed? Sure thing! A day out exploring the nearby nature reserve? Why not?!

Dogs are unusual among animals for retaining their love of play into adulthood. Scientists are still debating the purpose of play, so like us to feel it needs a purpose! Regardless of what it means to our canine companions, many certainly seem keen to indulge. This child-like quality is considered one of the characteristics that make dogs so endearing to their proud guardians. Allow some of that to rub off on you as well. Not everything you do has to have a purpose. Let your pooch inspire you to have fun, to play. Let your (metaphorical) hair down, and be yourself!

Let your dog also inspire you to get plenty of rest. To have that lazy Sunday and some early nights. Mine are inveterate sleepers, snatching forty winks at every opportunity. Our culture can also see having a lie-in or a relaxing day as laziness. Surely there must be something you could be doing?! Having fallen for this in the past, I have learned how much better I function if I am well-rested and

no longer chide myself for needing time out.

Appreciate your connection with others

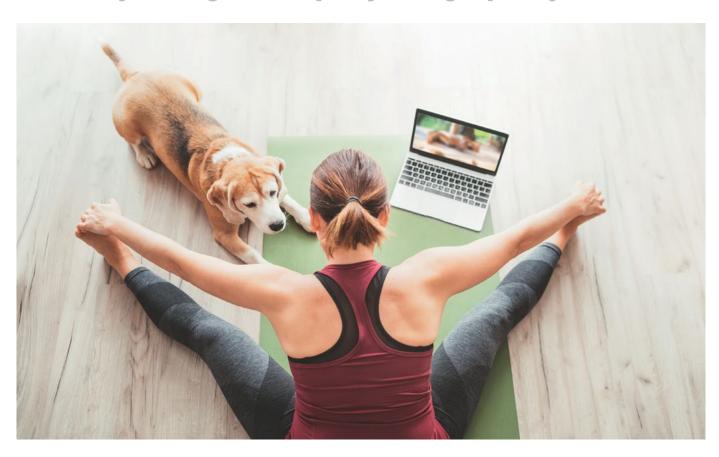
Just like humans, dogs are social animals. The special bond between many people and their dogs is a product of tens of years

created by the beginnings of civilisation. They have developed a special ability to connect with us unlike any other species, even our closest living relatives, the great apes. Although they may have some capacity for deception, dogs are essentially honest and open about what they do and how they feel. They express their emotions physically and generally act to minimise conflict. They do not typically harbour anger or act unkindly out of malice or a

of evolution in the specialised niche

desire to be mean. We can learn a great deal from observing the motivations of our dogs in their dealings with others and, through this, build better relationships. Both yoga and meditation teach us about our connection to all living creatures and our planet, inspiring us to act with compassion and understanding. Let that connection begin with your relationship with your dog.

"Let your dog also inspire you to get plenty of rest."





ADVENT CALENDAR AND FESTIVE TREAT CRACKER

Available online at **fish4dogs.com** from 3rd October, free delivery - or at independent pet shops.

Words: Pennie Clayton, Canine Behaviour and Training & Canine Bowen Therapist

YOUWEAR ITWELL

Pennie explores the growing trend to dress up our dogs and asks, is it such a good idea?

hen did we decide it was a good idea to dress our dogs up? It seems to have become increasingly popular over the last ten years or so. It seems routine for dogs to be included in seasonal wear during Halloween and Christmas.

Dogs are not children; neither are they here to provide us with entertainment, but for many people dressing dogs up has become acceptable and even obligatory when it comes to celebrations. There is a point where a discussion is needed that informs dog owners about how dressing their dogs up can be uncomfortable or even detrimental to their dogs.

Our dogs have evolved over many millions of years to become the





species they are today. They are undoubtedly tolerant of most of the things we force onto them. Still, everyone needs to become more aware of canine body language and how our behaviour impinges on their wellbeing.

Dogs have, by nature, amazing coats which are functional and comfortable, and they are generally well adapted to cope with considerable fluctuations in temperature, providing we allow them to find areas that help them to regulate their temperature.

In the winter, this may include being on our sofas or beds, which provide warmth and safety, which is often appreciated by us too. Our dog's hair, skin and fascia are the largest organ in the body, and their bodies need to be able to move without interference.

Their tactile sense is highly developed via sensors in the skin but loading more information onto the body via artificial layers is not necessarily enjoyable for dogs. There are exceptions for specific breeds where an extra layer can help with insulation and help relief in hot conditions; among these are greyhounds and smaller breeds that have less fat and are likely to feel extremes of temperature. These breeds may appreciate a well-fitted fleece coat or another properly designed layer

when temperatures drop, increase, or rain. Other than that, our dogs are amazingly prepared for varying weather conditions.

Having established that our dogs generally do well without our interference, what are the impacts of dressing our dogs up for Halloween, Christmas and all the other random festivals that seem increasingly frequent?

Certainly, in past and ancient history, dogs were decked out with a bit of bling, mainly in the form of collars, but these were often functional and used to prevent injury (see the link at the end of the article). The bulky collars often seen in old paintings were put on dogs to provide protection during hunting. Still, they would not have compromised movement too much, and the ornate collars made for the dogs belonging to nobility and royalty would not have been too restrictive while being worn. The use of clothing to amuse humans is a far more recent trend.

Predictably social media, celebrities and cultural influencers can be blamed for most of the popularity, as it seems they love using their dogs to accessorise their own

choice of clothing. It is about time that we understand that dogs would not elect to be clothed by us and that they are likely to feel awkward and restricted while wearing most of our chosen costumes.

There is even a national "dress your dog up day", which should raise the issue of how ethical it is for these events to be promoted. People often become defensive if it is pointed out that their dog is unhappy about being dressed up to look like a pumpkin or a "hot dog". It might even be considered that forcing a dog to wear clothing to keep him clean is detrimental

and can have an adverse effect. Dogs are likely to get dirty and choose to run, jump and roll in mud or other unsavoury areas, but these are one of the things we should expect. Often these behaviours result from being sprayed or shampooed with solutions that have scents that dogs find unbearable. We might love the

smell of baby powder, coconut, honeysuckle or vanilla, but would a dog choose any of these scents when he has a sense of smell of 1.000 to 10,000 times more sensitive than our own?

Communication should be part of living with a dog. It is unacceptable for anyone to be oblivious of obvious discomfort or anxiety when our dogs exhibit it. The signs will include moving away or struggling as the clothing is put on, lip licking, yawning, freezing, whale eye, and turning away, these are only a few examples, but there are many more. Look

at the dog's facial expression and how he holds his body. Look at how he moves and whether he moves less when he wears the clothing. He may roll, chew at the material or become immobile. None of these is signs that a dog is "enjoying" the experience. Negative associations can also be formed when young children cuddle dogs because they look cute. Children may be forgiven for behaving like this when they see dogs in costumes as they look more like toys and playthings, but this doesn't make it right or acceptable.

We have also to consider how the clothing is made. We

dog costumes. After a quick search,

all know the feeling of being irritated by a label or badly sown seams in our clothes. We have the option of removing the offending article or cutting a label out, we can also choose the fabrics we wear and what quality they are -it is unlikely these facts are considered when mass-producing

many dog costumes are cheap and mass-produced, so the quality is likely low. We subject our dogs to this when we pick one out with the rest of our supermarket shopping. Money is the name of the game, not the comfort of the dogs.

There is also another very important consideration, that of pain. Arthritic conditions are very common; we only have to watch dogs moving around to see that. Pain can be present in any breed or age of the dog, but it often has to be pointed out to dog owners that their dogs are exhibiting symptoms.



"Communication

should be part of

living with a dog."

YOU WEAR IT WELL



Lack of sleep and general low-grade pain and stress can result in allodynia. Allodynia is pain resulting from a stimulus such as light touch, which would not normally provoke pain. It is the mechanism that the body uses to protect itself during healing. Allodynia can also be the result of emotional trauma as well as physical problems.

Regarding dog costumes, this means that a dog may experience severe reactions when wearing clothing. This is without even touching the topic of sensory processing and what is happening around the dog when celebrations like Christmas are underway. When we combine these factors, it is unsurprising that so many dogs are surrendered to rescue after Christmas due to "aggression".

Do we have enough knowledge to insist that our dogs wear clothing however cute or endearing they look? Is our happiness more important than theirs, or do we continue to learn more about our dogs so that we can become more empathetic and stop looking at their worlds through our eyes?

We have the power to enhance our dogs' lives or to carry on believing that our dogs actively enjoy being dressed up.

Additional reading:

- https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/neuroscience/allodynia
- https://www.leeds-castle.com/Visit/Attractions/

The+Dog+Collar+Museum

■ https://www.elle.com/culture/celebrities/news/g27114/celebrity-halloween-pet-costumes/





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Words: Carole Sandhu

LIVER DISEASE INDOGS

Carole explores liver disease and how choosing the proper diet can delay its progression.

econd, only to the skin, the liver is the largest organ in the body and is responsible for an incredible 1500 biochemical functions. Generally, though, its two main roles are keeping the body's internal environment constant (homeostasis) by maintaining blood glucose levels, regulating temperature, and removing waste from the body. In addition, the liver also plays an essential role in the digestion of food and nutrients. Because the liver has many functions, liver disease has many clinical signs, including chronic weight loss, vomiting, loss of appetite, frequent urination (polyuria) and excessive thirst (polydipsia), dehydration, and others.



However, liver disease is usually quite advanced before there are any signs and symptoms, and a blood test which looks at liver function (liver functions tests or LFTs) and scans can confirm the diagnosis. On a positive note, by choosing carefully, the proper diet may not only help to manage the symptoms but may also help to delay the progression of the disease.

The diet aims to:

- To supply adequate energy and nutrients to fulfil basic requirements and prevent malnutrition
- Maintain normal metabolic processes
- Avoid build-up of toxins
- Correct electrolyte disturbance
- Provide substances needed to repair and regenerate liver cells (hepatocytes)
- Limit further liver damage by preventing the accumulation of copper and free radicals.
- Prevent or minimise metabolic complications such as hepatic encephalopathy.

"The proper diet may not only help to manage the symptoms but may also help to delay the progression of the disease."

Diet and Supplements for Liver Disease

Energy (calories) and fat

Prolonged inadequate food intake in dogs with chronic liver disease will result in progressive loss of body fat and muscle wastage which contributes to the malnutrition and weight loss commonly found in liver disease.

In most cases, it should not be necessary to restrict to a very low-fat diet as fat is an important source of calories. Dogs with liver disease have small appetites, so adding melted butter/margarine, cream, cheese or cream cheese to meals can provide extra energy in a small portion.

Providing small frequent meals (3-6 per day) at room temperature plus a bedtime snack can help with a reduced appetite, and this approach has the added benefit of optimising blood flow through the liver.

Protein

Protein should not be restricted and should be high quality or, in other words, from animal sources like meat, fish or eggs as this will provide all of the essential amino acids (those the body cannot make and has to get from the diet). These protein sources are also highly digestible, so the liver's workload is reduced, and less waste products will be produced.

Carbohydrate

Having carbohydrates in the diet can be a useful source of energy and reduce the liver's workload by reducing the need for the liver to make glucose from protein and

fat. Ultimately, this will minimise protein breakdown, which is often the cause of muscle wastage. Diets containing about 50% of energy from digestible carbohydrates are beneficial for dogs with liver disease. Dog food manufacturers are not required to state how much carbohydrate is in their dog food. But there is an easy way to determine how much carbohydrate is in your dog's food. Add up all the nutrient percentages and take the total from 100. What's left is the carbohydrate.

acting as an ammonia trap and reducing blood levels of the toxic waste product, ammonia.

Insoluble fibre such as wheat bran cannot be fermented and helps to avoid constipation which otherwise would

interfere with the large intestinal microflora's ability to mop up nitrogenous waste. This is particularly important for dogs with

Hepatic Encephalopathy (HE), a degenerative brain disease caused by a build-up of ammonia in the body when the liver is no longer doing its job of getting rid of toxins. When toxins such as ammonia start to accumulate in the bloodstream, they affect the Central Nervous System (CNS), and symptoms begin to develop, including extreme thirst, being unsteady on their feet, pacing, appearing confused etc. In addition dietary changes, the Vet may prescribe

to dietary changes, the Vet may prescribe lactulose, which also helps trap ammonia in the large intestine (colon). These factors will mean that the excess toxins cannot be absorbed into the bloodstream and cause neurological symptoms.

Fibre

Both types of fibre can be very beneficial for dogs with liver disease.

Soluble fibre, like sweet potato, can be fermented in the large intestine by the bacteria that are present (large intestinal microflora). In turn, they metabolise nitrogenous waste,

"Both types of fibre can be very beneficial for dogs with liver disease."





Vitamins

- Vitamin B is water soluble and so is lost when there is excessive urination, so the diet should always be supplemented with vitamin B
- Vitamin C is also water-soluble but should not be supplemented as it can worsen tissue damage caused by copper and iron.
- Vitamin E is an antioxidant known to mop up free radicals, so it is cytoprotective, especially in copper storage disease.
- Vitamin K is helpful if clotting times are prolonged and there is a need for a liver biopsy.

Supplementation with vitamin A should be avoided because it can cause damage to the liver tissues.

Supplementation with vitamin D should also be avoided because it can cause tissue calcification.

Minerals

Copper & Zinc

Zinc may be low in chronic liver disease. It competes with the absorption of copper in the gut and should be supplemented in the case of copper storage disease. This condition occurs when an abnormal amount of copper accumulates in the liver, leading to liver tissue damage and scarring (cirrhosis). Some breeds are more susceptible to this, including Dalmations, Bedlington Terriers, Doberman Pinschers, West Highland White Terriers, Skye Terriers and Labrador Retrievers. As well as lethargy, vomiting, increased thirst, weight loss and lack of appetite it may show as a yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes (jaundice). The Vet may prescribe a chelating agent to bind to the copper that has accumulated and help the body get rid of it through the urine.

Many commercial diets contain copper levels well above the recommended daily amount, so it is important to choose a diet which is as low as possible in copper.

Additional Supplements

SAMe

An antioxidant with anti-inflammatory effects may be beneficial in treating chronic liver disease. It is known to have therapeutic benefits in paracetamol toxicity, suggesting that it may be beneficial in treating chronic liver disease, although more research is needed in this area.

Milk thistle (Silymarin)

It is a combination of several active compounds which have antioxidant effects and may also help the body to make protein and stimulate the growth of liver cells it may be beneficial in chronic liver disease, but more research is needed.

Other Antioxidants

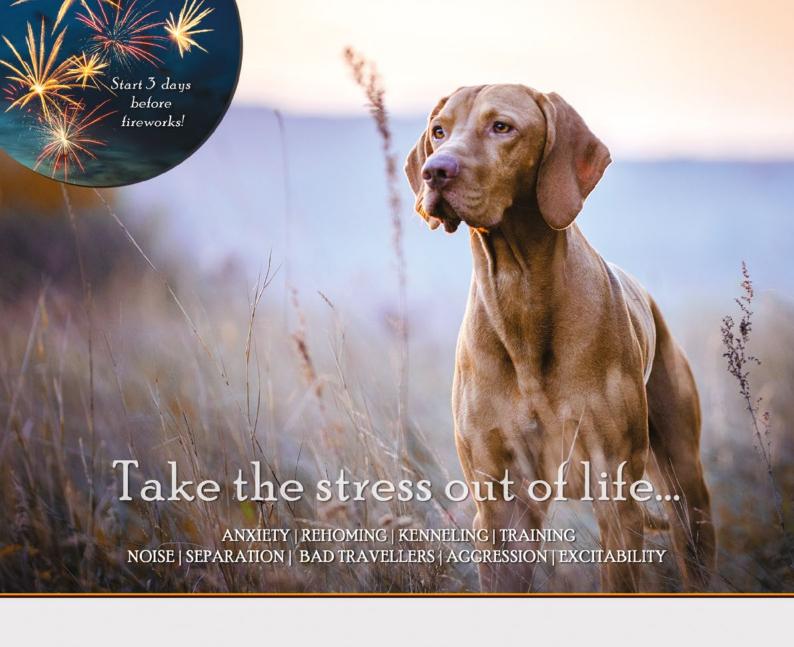
Omega-3 and Omega-6 supplements may be beneficial due to their ability to mop up free radicals and reduce inflammation in general.

Overall, an adapted diet and the addition of supplements can help to maintain body weight and muscle mass, support liver regeneration and encourage the dog to eat.

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HELP YOUR DOG TO LEARN IN PULSE CONTROLL

None of us is born with impulse control; it is something we learn as we grow, and our dogs are the same. **We** offer advice on how you can teach your dog self-control.

ow strong is your impulse control? Can you put away that last chocolate in the box for later, or is the temptation to snaffle it up simply too great to resist? We tend to expect a great deal from our dogs, and one element that can cause irritation or frustration is a lack of impulse control – even though this is an issue that many of us humans struggle with, too.

Counter-surfing, helping themselves to food or forbidden items, barking, exploding into reactivity when presented with a trigger, and mugging visitors are just some of how dogs lack self-control. Although this is a natural behaviour to the dog, this can be among the reasons why some caregivers enlist the help of a qualified behaviourist. For some unfortunate dogs, a total lack of what is considered good (human) manners can sadly result in a one-way trip to a rescue.

None of us are born with self-control. We have to be taught it as small children so that we can fit into society, and parents of toddlers entering what

Words: Edition Dog



SELF-CONTROL

is termed "the terrible two's" are tasked with teaching them that not everything they want can be instantly available. It's not the easiest time for all concerned; it takes time, patience, understanding and consistency. It can help to consider how

hard it can be for a small child to understand that "I want it all and I want it now!" doesn't always mean they get it, and to then apply this to your dog if he acts on his impulses. In the wild, dogs must snatch and grab any available food and defend themselves, if necessary, to survive. This is hard-wired, but with help, they can learn to restrain their instincts.

Impulse Control Disorder is a psychiatric medical condition in humans that requires therapy, as it can be very damaging to the sufferer and those around them. Lack of impulse control reveals itself as the inability to resist temptation or to follow through on a thought by immediately taking action that may be detrimental. We live in a society with defined codes of acceptable behaviour, and, by default, our dogs are also expected to live by these codes, even though they make no sense to our furry family members.

Impulse control and the brain

Dr Gregory Berns and his research team have been at the forefront of neuroimaging awake, unrestrained dogs to map the canine brain using fMRI (functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanners since 2012. The dogs

are taught to lie in the noisy scanners purely through positive reinforcement, and the

discoveries about how dogs process

emotional states and what gives rise to these have rocked the dog world and taught us a great deal about the dog mind and emotions. We now know that similar brain areas light up in dogs and humans when specific emotions are experienced. One of these areas is the prefrontal cortex region, which is activated during the process of self-control.

Dogs don't have large frontal lobes, but the brain scans of dogs who inhibited their responses during an impulse control study showed increased activity in a small region of the left frontal cortex. This indicates a direct link between the ability to self-control and its effect on behaviour. A dog who can exercise impulse control can fit far more comfortably into our human-led





"Management can also help to limit situations in which your dog has the opportunity to react."

world, which impacts the bond between dog and caregiver and outsiders' perceptions of the dog.

The first step in teaching impulse control - management

Depending on where your dog finds it hard to resist an urge to act impulsively, you can take steps to help him learn self-restraint. It can be useful to set a management programme in place initially. If your dog counter-surfs, you can keep the door to the kitchen closed or create a barrier with a safety gate and ensure that no food is ever left on the kitchen counter. If he barks frantically when the doorbell rings, you could change the sound of the doorbell or ask pre-planned visitors to call or text you just before they arrive at your front door. If he gets frantic when he sees another dog, you can choose to walk him at quiet times for a while and move in the opposite direction as soon as you see another dog while rewarding him for coming with you.

The stress levels of a dog who is responding impulsively

are heightened, and the purpose of using management as the first step is to reduce his stress levels so that he will find it easier to absorb and learn the new responses that you're going to be asking for from him. Management can also help to limit situations in which your dog has the opportunity to react. As behaviours become habitual and instinctive, removing the trigger also helps to break the habit — especially when you invite him to offer an alternative behaviour.

Teaching alternative and incompatible behaviours

This is a great way to teach impulse control. A dog snatching at food, jumping up, or lunging is no longer able to do this if he learns to sit when you ask him to. He can also learn through repetition over time that he can choose to sit without a cue as a new default behaviour when he feels worried, upset, frustrated or excited. This has a self-calming effect, and his newly learned good manners should garner him plenty of praise and rewards, whether these consist of food or a game.

Through repeated practice, sitting as a default behaviour can override instinct. This should be taught in an environment that's free from distractions before you graduate to busier environments. Always ensure your dog is enjoying the learning

process. Reward him handsomely each time he gets it right and keep the practice times short, so

he doesn't become bored.

Identify the reward

A dog exhibiting impulse control does so because he wants something and doesn't know any alternative way to get that. You can ask yourself what it is that your dog wants (which is ultimately the reward) and observe what he does in his attempt to gain this. For instance, if he counter-surfs, he will first jump up to the counter to investigate what is on there. The reward for him for successful counter-surfing is food.

You can ask him to sit (paws on the floor) and then offer him a small treat from your pocket or treat bag – not from the kitchen counter.

If he bounces off the walls when you prepare to take him for a walk, he's excited about going out. The excursion is the reward. You can ask him to sit and wait for you to attach his lead. If he starts racing around, stand still and wait until he's calm – then he gets the reward of a walk.

A dog who reacts to other dogs by barking or lunging is asking for space, so by calmly moving him away and treating

him for coming with you, he gains space and some

tasty food.

If you observe your dog closely and view his behaviour as his way of communicating that he wants something, you can find alternative ways to help him gain what he's asking for. This then eliminates the urge to follow his impulse because he learns to trust you enough to know that you are doing your best to meet his needs or wants.

Reward the desirable behaviours

Even the most impulse-driven dog performs positive behaviours you would like

him to repeat. Reward him for those; they will become habitual and gradually override the behaviours you wish to stop. Be patient and consistent, try not to push him to change, and allow him to learn at a pace that works for him

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"Be patient and consistent, try not to push him to change, and allow him to learn at a pace that works for him."



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How to care for your itchy dog:

COPING WITH CANINE SKIN ALLERGY

Managing a pet with allergies can be a lifelong responsibility – in this article, **John Redbond**, Registered Veterinary Nurse and Dermatology Nurse Advisor outlines the journey of an itchy dog and how you can help give them the best possible care.

s many as three in ten of all dogs suffer from skin allergies, which can have a significant impact both on their lives and the lives of their owners. Nobody wants to see their pet suffering but, by working closely with your veterinary team, your dog's symptoms can be well controlled in the long-term to make sure they have a comfortable, happy life.

"When it comes to allergy there is no 'quick fix' and there will be challenges along the way," says John. "We call it a journey because it takes time to rule out other causes and to determine the allergens that your pet is sensitive to. It calls for flexibility and adaptability; we have to make decisions as we

go, based on the information we have at that point in time.

"However, working closely with your vet and having a better awareness of allergies will greatly help to improve your chances of reaching the best solution for you and your dog."

Understanding allergy

An allergy is when your dog's immune system over-reacts to what would normally be considered a harmless substance – this is known as an allergen. This over reaction triggers the increased production of IgE antibodies which cause various reactions from other cells in the body, leading to the symptoms you can see. The next time your

Words: John Redbond: Registered Veterinary

Nurse and Dermatology Nurse Advisor



dog encounters that allergen, their immune system is primed and ready for it, so the reaction is also much quicker.

In addition, normally the outer protective layer of the skin acts as a barrier to keep in moisture and keep out harmful substances, but in some allergic dogs this barrier is faulty and lets in allergens, allowing the triggering of their allergy. The resulting scratching and biting of the skin also causes direct damage to this barrier, further allowing allergens to enter. As well as this the self-trauma can cause the development of bacterial or fungal overgrowth, either from the skin being hot and reddened or by being passed from the mouth and nails. This is then even more itchy than the original allergy, making the problem even worse.

What might my dog be allergic to?

As with people, common environmental allergens for dogs include grass, weed or tree pollens, moulds, dust mites, storage

mites or fleas. A smaller number of dogs can also suffer from food allergies, which can cause the same symptoms as an allergy to something in their environment.

How do I know if my dog is itchy?

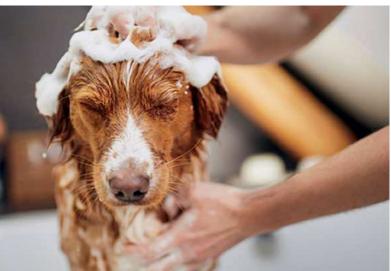
Itchy dogs will respond in different ways – some might nibble at the affected area, while others are ear scratchers or foot chewers. Your dog might have brown patches of hair, caused by saliva staining, or pink sore areas of skin that they have been repeatedly licking; they may also have musty or unpleasant-smelling skin or ears, or even a visible rash or spots.

Remember that symptoms of allergy vary from dog to dog and can be different according to the time of the year too. Many signs can be considered normal behaviour, so it is best to request an allergy check-up with your vet.

For a quick quiz about your pet and allergies, visit https://go.nextmune.com/doesmypethaveanallergy

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR ITCHY DOG





COMMON SIGNS Scratching Itching Over grooming Paw chewing Ear problems Red skin Loss of hair Face rubbing Watery eyes

How do I find out if my dog has an allergy?

To reach a diagnosis, your vet needs as much information as possible about your dog's history and symptoms; so they will start by carrying out a thorough work-up to first rule out all other possible causes of your dog's symptoms, including parasites, bacterial or yeast infections which can then be treated.

The work-up may also include a diet trial to check for food allergies, which can cause identical symptoms to environmental allergies. A diet trial involves feeding your dog a very strict diet for up to eight weeks: if their symptoms improve, it is possible that the ingredients in their original food were the problem. To confirm this, you give your dog the original food again to see if symptoms return (a process known as 'rechallenging').

Whilst it is common for a dog to have both food and environmental allergies, some may have just a food allergy. Cutting out the problem food from their diet can solve the problem and prevent the need for life-long medication. For dogs suffering from both food and environmental allergies, removing that food from their diet may reduce the level of medication they need.

Or, if your dog is diagnosed with a skin allergy to something in the environment (also known as atopic dermatitis) after ruling out all other causes (the case for the vast majority of allergic dogs) it is time to find out specifically what your dog is allergic to and how this can best be managed.

Testing for environmental allergens

If the allergy work-up has been carried out and food allergy has been ruled out (or if symptoms improved but didn't disappear), then your pet is likely allergic to one or more environmental allergens.

Allergy tests can be really useful to help identify which environmental allergens your dog reacts to, which can help you learn more about how to manage and treat their itchiness.

The most common way to identify allergens is for your vet to take a small blood sample for testing, known as serological allergy testing. An alternative method is intradermal allergy testing in which small amounts of different allergens are applied to your dog's skin and then monitored for any reaction, but this is not typically available at a general veterinary practice.



How to treat allergic dogs

"If allergy is the root of your dog's issue, then it is a lifelong condition and will never be cured, but there are many different solutions available to help address it," says John. "Persevering to find the right answers for your dog really can help to manage their condition and give them a better quality of life long-term."

Identifying the allergens for your dog allows a special type of therapy, known as allergen-specific immunotherapy (ASIT), to be created specifically for your dog. This bespoke approach uses very small amounts of the relevant allergens to re-educate the immune system by stimulating it in a controlled way without triggering the symptoms — over time, your pet can be exposed to gradually increasing amounts until a tolerance level is reached and your dog becomes desensitised to the allergens in question.

Your vet will work closely with you to work out exactly what will work best for you and your dog: this will often include a combination of treatments, such as anti-itch medications, allergen-specific immunotherapy and skin products (shampoo, wipes etc.), as well as potentially taking steps to avoid the allergens identified.

What else can I do for my itchy dog?

"When it comes to canine allergy management, one solution doesn't work for all dogs. A combination of therapies will offer you better control and provide the flexibility you need to get additional support during any flare-ups," adds John.

Regularly washing your dog with medicated shampoo can help to wash away environmental allergens which may be on the surface of the skin and protect their vital skin barrier and the use of essential fatty acids can also help to maintain that skin barrier. But it is worth keeping in mind, correctly identifying and understanding the nature of your pet's allergy and the best way to approach treatment is vital to managing their condition long term and keeping them comfortable and itch free.



John Redbond

Manager of the Veterinary Nursing Dermatology Group & Head of Marketing at NextmuneUK

John Redbond RVN started working as a trainee nurse in 2001, qualified in 2004 and went on to run a dermatology clinic for 8 years from 2011. He was also Head Nurse and Practice Coordinator at the same practice and is now Group Manager of the Veterinary Nursing Dermatology Group which he set up to get more nurses involved in dermatology; as well as working for the past 4 years as with NextmuneUK who specialise in veterinary dermatological products. John has lectured and written numerous articles on the subject of dermatology and hosts the Skin Flint veterinary dermatology podcast.

To find out more about the canine skin allergy journey, visit https://go.nextmune.com/theallergyjourney or ask your vet. Find out more about the Nextmune UK Topical Skin Range for your dog by following us on social media. Facebook @nextmuneuk, Instagram nextmuneuk, Twitter @NextmuneUK



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FEEDING ALTERNATIVES & MENTAL STIMULATION

Melanie explains the varied ways that food can be used to promote mental stimulation.



ou may remember from a previous article that I discussed the dangers and concerns surrounding traditional raw hide chews. Whilst still widely available, these types of chew can pose a big health risk to our dogs but are you someone who struggles to find an alternative, healthy, long-lasting option for your dog? In this article, I

will explain the many varied ways that food can be used to promote mental stimulation and how you can make treat recipes yourself to suit your dog's own individual tastes.

We've likely all seen or heard of slow bowls that come in a variety of patterns and colours, and varying designs including spirals, movable parts, raised bumps, levers, and matts with nodules or crevasses

FEEDING ALTERNATIVES & MENTAL STIMULATION

to fill with food, but should you only use these for dogs who eat too fast? In my opinion, definitely not! Both of my dogs rarely eat from a regular food bowl and although they could be classed as typical food gobblers being a Labrador cross and a Springer Spaniel, I have taken time with them over the years to encourage slower eating but more importantly, I wanted to provide their busy working brains with tiring and highly rewarding exercises. Rather than food bowls, I use several types of slow feeders, Green Feeders and Kongs to make meal times more fun and interactive. Traditionally, the typical plastic slow bowls were designed to have dry biscuits fed from them. As the dog goes to eat the food, their tongue movements flick the biscuits around the inside of the bowl design, making them work harder (and at a slower pace) to obtain each morsel. The narrow spaces make it impossible for the dog to get a full mouthful of food and instead, encourage a more even-paced ingestion. Even though some dogs will be seen frantically chomping and licking them, the bowls are still doing their job by preventing the meal being consumed in 1 or 2 quick mouthfuls.

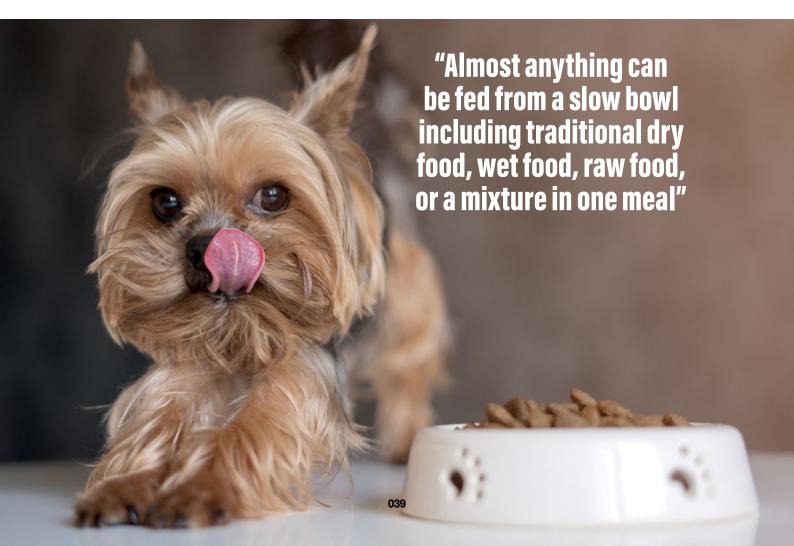
Over the years of my own dog ownership, I have found that almost anything can be fed from a slow bowl including traditional dry food, wet food, raw food, or a mixture in one meal. For a slightly tougher challenge (which I found helpful for my speedy Spaniel) I use a fork or spoon to press the food down into the grooves, especially if you have chunkier pieces so your dog must work even harder to access them. For wetter foods, LickiMats come in all shapes and designs to suit your dog's requirements and can be useful for helping to calm

dogs in stressful situations as licking, combined with eating something tasty, can help to relieve anxiety.

I'm a big advocate of feeding 'goodies' to my dogs, they especially love things like cheese, freeze-dried meat chunks, cheese spread, pate, sausages, hot dogs, and mashed potato. With these items, I only feed in small quantities but I make

sure I place them in the feeder I choose at the bottom, so my dogs must work hard to get to the really good stuff. Cheese spread or even cheddar can be moulded into the contours of a LickiMat and then regular food placed over the top. If filling a Kong toy, I place the Kong narrow end down into a mug so it remains stable for filling. I then place my sausage chunks, cheese, and/or potato in first, making sure I squish it down with a fork or spoon, so it starts to peak through the small hole at the very end. This way, the dogs can smell it and get a small taster when they first start their challenge but will have to work through the rest of the food first before reaching the super tasty morsels.

Traditional Kong toys tend to be a 'love them or hate them' type of toy. I have met many dog owners over the years who explain that they have a Kong,



FEEDING ALTERNATIVES & MENTAL STIMULATION

but the dog never plays with it and to be honest, as a plain rubber toy, they don't offer a huge amount of stimulation on their own. Filled with food however, they can prove to be something incredibly valuable to both you and your dog. If your dog is unfamiliar eating from a stuffed Kong, the key is to start easy as described in the previous article. As your dog becomes more adapted and is emptying the Kong quicker, the difficulty can be increased. For a tough and long-lasting chewing session, experienced dogs can really benefit from a stuffed Kong which has been frozen overnight. An example of a recipe I use would be as follows, placing the first (and most tasty) ingredient listed in the upside-down Kong first so this falls to the narrower end of the toy; cheddar cheese, freeze-dried salmon chunks (Nature's Variety), a few spoons of Country Hunter Rabbit or Venison can, a few Natures Menu Meaty Treats (for a yummy surprise half way!), more canned food, a sprinkling of dry biscuits, finished with a final layer of canned food and a chew or large treat pushed into the middle of the filling so some remains sticking out of the large end. Freeze overnight and give on a hot day for a refreshing and mentally stimulating ice lolly!

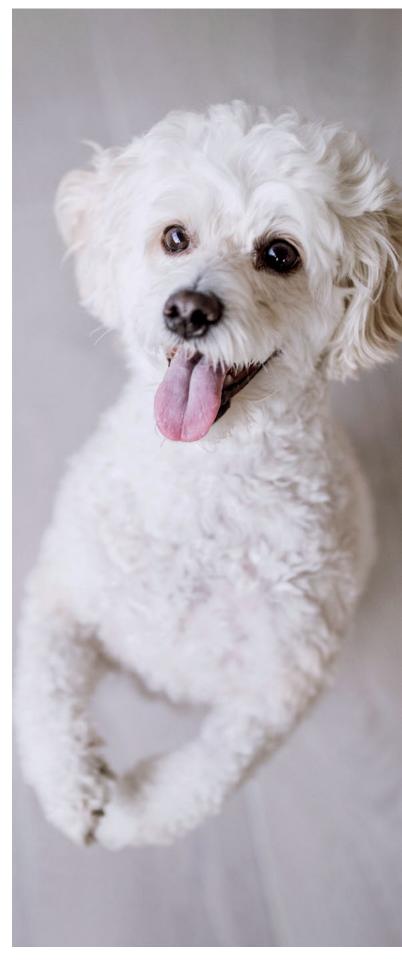
"It's a joy to watch your dog progress through the difficulty stages of Kong stuffing and each dog soon develops their own quirky ways on emptying them."

Overweight dogs or dogs who love fruit and veg can also benefit from longer eating sessions using Kong toys. Either freeze some carrots for a cooling chew or, liquidise or finely chop a selection of your dog's favourite fruits and veggies and place inside the Kong. If required, the ends can be blocked using larger slices of carrots, cucumber, apple, butternut squash, pumpkin, or swede to make a more difficult challenge.

It's a joy to watch your dog progress through the difficulty stages of Kong stuffing and each dog soon develops their own quirky ways on emptying them. My older dog has taken to throwing the toy as high as he can in the garden so morsels fly out on landing, and my younger dog has recently learnt if he takes his to a particular place in the garden, he can position it narrow end down, so he has good, open licking access at the

larger end. They never cease to amaze me how resourceful they become when there's a sausage involved!

Disclaimer – please note that not all food and toy suggestions are appropriate for all dogs. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure dietary indiscretion does not occur and the toys/feeders selected are appropriate for the individual dog. No toy or slow feeder is indestructible and careful monitoring should take place whilst in use.





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Words: Lee Connor

SISTERS ARE DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES!

Lee looks at the incredible women who have dedicated their lives to perfecting and popularising their particular breed or fought for equality in the show/gundog world.

n general, the Kennel Club and the world of pedigree dogs are often accused of being insular, archaic and stubbornly reluctant to change.

As is the case for many long-time institutions, some of these criticisms are fair; others not so much. I was reminded of this recently when writing a feature on the Yorkshire Terrier for an American publication.

When researching this charming toy breed, I came across the name of Mrs M. A. Foster. This indomitable woman was the driving force behind this breed, but beyond that, she also had the unique distinction of being the first lady to ever officiate as a judge – she was invited to judge the toy breeds at Manchester Dog Show in 1889.

Nowadays, of course, it's hard to understand

the fuss generated, but back then, this appointment caused a real sensation. The first official dog show had only been held some thirty years before, in 1859 - and this was limited to Setters and Pointers - so the scene was still in its relative infancy; however, like most Victorian hobbies, it was very much a male-dominated pursuit. Even in 1898, nearly all executive and committee members were male. So, Mrs Foster was very much a trendsetter.

However, she most certainly wasn't alone. Across the board, there were numerous women who, in many cases, dedicated their entire lives to perfecting and popularising their particular breed, whilst others fought for equality in the show/gundog world. Here are just a few of their fascinating stories...





"Many of us become completely besotted by our chosen breed of dog, thinking our favourites are (quite rightly) the best dogs in the world."

Mrs Foster

This wonderfully enthusiastic Bradford woman is credited with establishing the world-famous (and still extremely popular) breed, the Yorkshire Terrier.

She began exhibiting in 1864 and was still showing her favourite toy breed forty-seven years later, producing a string of famous champions. Equally as important as her immaculately turned-out little dogs was the fact

that she was the very first lady to ever officiate as a judge – stepping into the ring and having the courage of her convictions before a highly critical public. She obviously performed well, and after this time, many ladies followed her example, acting as judges of various classes of dogs.

classes of dogs.

Violet Horsfall

Now from one of the smallest breeds of dog to a true giant! I have read numerous Victorian/
Edwardian articles describing the perfect breed for a 'lady' to exhibit; they usually suggest a Pekingese, a King Charles, Pug or a Griffon Bruxellois, so it always makes me smile to see a woman from this era handling a Wolfhound or, as in this case, a Great Dane!

Even in our supposedly more enlightened age, we often hear the term a "lady's dog", so one wonders what kind of personality you would have to have to literally cock a snook at Victorian/Edwardian society and its efforts to try and constrain you.

Jean Lanning (a lady worthy of celebration herself) wrote about Violet in her book on the breed.

"One of the most important periods in the history of the breed was in the years 1895 to 1905, when Mrs Violet Horsfall of Norfolk bred the famous Redgraves Great Danes. She became 'the queen of Great Danes'. Founding her line on Nero and other famous German dogs, she produced the finest specimens yet seen and became the founder of the modern Great Dane in this country."

Florence Amhurst

Many of us become completely besotted by our chosen breed of dog, thinking our favourites are (quite rightly) the best dogs in the world. So, we will sympathise with Florence Amhurst, who became smitten with the enigmatic Saluki.

The breed was first imported into Britain in the 1840s, but no real interest was shown in it. This changed when Florence spotted some Salukis as she travelled along the Nile and subsequently imported a pair in

1895. She became insatiable in her quest for any information on this exotic hound, even famously pestering Lawrence of Arabia!

Capitalising on the growing interest in Egyptology, she tirelessly publicised her favourite breed. She wrote countless articles, bred over 50 litters and registered 199 puppies.

Princess Sophia Duleep-Singh

Anyone who watched the 2017 film, The Black Prince, may well recognise this lady's name. She was the daughter of Maharajah Duleep Singh, the last Maharajah of the Sikh Empire, a man who had a very close relationship with Queen Victoria.

The Queen was also Sophia's godmother, which might well account for her love of Pomeranians, a breed she exhibited at many leading shows alongside her beloved Borzois. Her dog, Floc, took first prize at the Paris Dog Show and Preciosa won a first at the Crystal Palace. Sophia was also an early member of the Ladies Kennel Association and was President of the Toy Dog Show in 1914.

The Princess later became famous as a suffragette and campaigned for equality and women's rights until her death in 1948.

The Duchess of Newcastle

The Borzoi was also the favourite breed of this highly influential woman. In breeding and showing, her kennel ranked amongst the very best (she bred eight Borzoi champions, twelve Wire Fox Terrier Champions and nine Smooth Fox Terrier Champions), and, because she was a lady of such social eminence, her involvement caused other ladies to also become involved in the world of dogs. She became the first chairman of the Ladies Kennel Association in 1899.

Lorna Countess Howe

The Labrador is often cited as the world's most popular dog breed, and it is widely believed that this fame is due, in no small part, to this extraordinary woman.

When the Labrador Retriever Club was started in 1916, she became its secretary and treasurer (and chairman in 1935) and remained in these offices until she died in 1961. She was the first female owner of a Crufts best in show winner, in 1932, with her famous Labrador, Champion Bramshaw Bob.

Bob was a dual champion, excelling in work and the show ring – as it should be. She wrote this in the 1923 Labrador Club Yearbook;

"Happily, the majority of dogs that have won a CC have qualified in the field. It is sincerely to be hoped that such a state will long continue and that Labradors may, for many years to come, have representatives of the breed that compete successfully not only in their own classes but in classes open to all varieties and show that working gundogs should be so high in quality and symmetrical in shape that they can hold their own amongst the best show dogs of the day."

Sadly, as she feared, after her death, the breed (like most gundog breeds) split into the lighter, speedier working type and the heavier, thick-set showdog.

Miss Keyte – Perry

For nearly two years, I lived just down the road from this lady's magnificent house, Oak Hall (now a care home), in





EDITION DOG DEBATES

Haslemere, Surrey. Miss Keyte-Perry ran a girls' boarding school and kept a kennel of Samoyeds here. The 'Arctic' Samoyeds would become famous worldwide for their stunning quality. Their owner never let an opportunity to publicise this beautiful breed slip through her fingers; they often appeared in magazines, books and newsreels of the day. Dedicated to her beloved Sammies, she became chairman of the Ladies Branch of the Kennel Club from 1948 – 1963 and became the first chairman and then president of the Samoyed Club for well over thirty years.

Veronica Tudor-Williams

Although she wasn't the first to import them, I think most people would concur that Veronica Tudor-Williams was the driving force behind the establishment of the "barkless dog" - the Basenji - in the west. And, as we have seen so many times before, her success lay in harnessing the relatively new medium of television combined with her flair as a writer.

The breed began to attract attention in the late 1930s, but the ensuing war years proved extremely difficult for all dog owners. However, due to the dedication of a select group of breeders, a nucleus of puppies was available when peace was finally declared.

"Due to the dedication of a select group of breeders, a nucleus of puppies was available when peace was finally declared"

These early breeders had many difficulties to overcome – not least the Basenji's susceptibility to Distemper. In a letter dated 1958, Miss Tudor-Williams wrote: "The early struggles were appalling, the native stock carried cream (semi albino), incredibly bad scrotal and inguinal hernias, cleft palates etc......"

In 1959, Miss Tudor-Williams travelled to Sudan to search for new stock, and there she discovered a little red and white bitch, later called Fula of the Congo, a dog that appears in the pedigrees of most modern-day Basenji.

Veronica wrote several books about her beloved breed and countless articles. She did everything possible to bring this fascinating breed to the dog loving public's attention.

One has to wonder if the extraordinary worldwide popularity of breeds such as the Yorkshire Terrier and the Labrador would have happened without the close involvement of Mrs Foster and Lorna Countess Howe.

Indeed, would we still have the Saluki and the Basenji without the likes of Florence Amhurst and Veronica Tudor-Williams? In the background of many of our dog breeds are scores of women, many of whom lived lives equally as fascinating as the breeds they so valiantly championed. Their rich contribution deserves to be remembered.

Not Full Members Until 1979!

Given their valuable input, it's staggering to discover that women wouldn't be recognised as "full members" of the Kennel Club until 1979.

The story is covered in the book, Treasures of The Kennel Club. For 80 years, the Kennel Club had a Ladies' Branch, which flourished until the final admission of women into full club membership in 1979.

The idea was mooted first in a letter received by the General Committee on September 8th 1896, from Lady Auckland. She suggested facilities should be offered to women to become members of the Kennel Club, and a sub-committee appointed to consider the foundation of a Ladies' Branch recommended this should happen.

The General Committee did not agree to the recommendation. At a special general meeting on February 9th 1899, Mr Francis Redmond proposed a Ladies' Branch be formed. Mr J. H. Salter seconded this, and the proposal met with general approval, with only one dissentient, Mr S. J. Thompson, who proposed an amendment that failed to find a seconder.

It was decided the branch be formed immediately and its first committee be appointed by the committee of the Kennel Club. On July 4th that year, the names of 50 ladies were approved as the first members of the branch.



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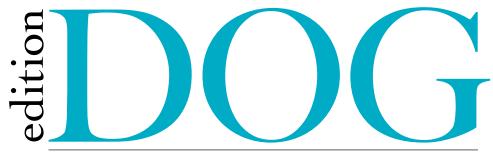
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First Aid Pull Out

Inside:Santa Paws is coming!

■ Poisons at Christmas

First Aid

Words: Kathy Hobson:



Who is already excited for Christmas? I know that we all are at Dog First Aid Training! It is such a lovely time of year but it's important to be aware of the doggy dangers so that a canine catastrophe doesn't spoil the festive cheer that we all deserve.

First on the list are toxins. There are numerous human foods that are poisonous for dogs, and many of these are in abundance over Christmas. Grapes and dried grapes (raisins, currants and sultanas) are a common culprit – so this includes your mince pies, Christmas cake and pudding. Grapes and their dried versions can cause acute kidney injury in around 20% of dogs (Source: Animal Poison Line). As none of us know whether our dog is in the 20% they are best avoided in all dogs.

Chocolate is another danger, including wrapped ones and those hanging from your tree, so please keep these well out of reach. The ingredient in chocolate that affects dogs is theobromine which is found in cocoa. Clinical signs may take some time to show and can last for days. These include nausea and vomiting, panting, agitation, diarrhoea, increased drinking and urination and an increased heart rate.

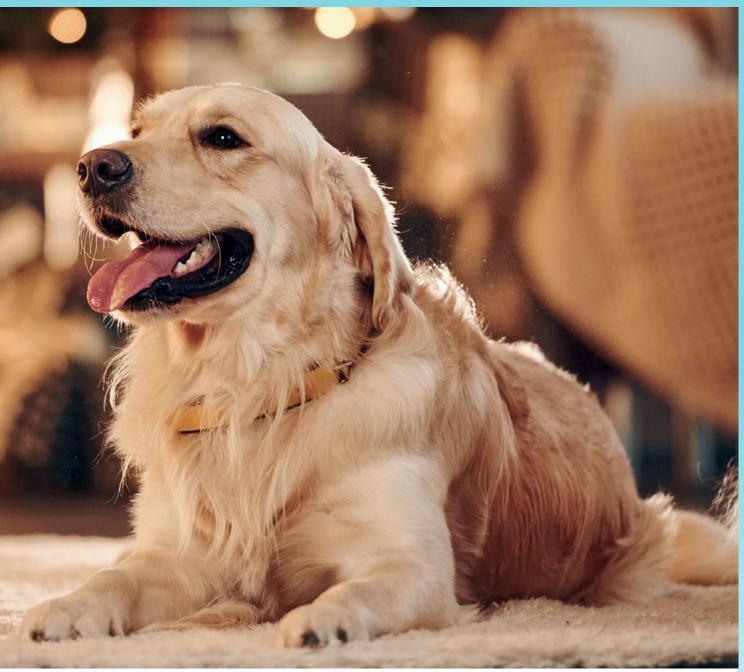
Blue cheese may cause mould toxicity leading to seizures in dogs. It goes without saying that alcohol should be avoided and, when you're suffering from your own overindulgence, human medications should also be kept well away from dogs.

There are a few more toxins that are non-food related but still relevant over the festive period: Plants such as Mistletoe, Poinsettia and Amaryllis are not good for dogs so must be kept out of reach. Pine sap is another danger, therefore

"Plants such as Mistletoe, Poinsettia and Amaryllis are not good for dogs so must be kept out of reach."







please consider an artificial tree if you've got a dog that chews everything. All of these plants are likely to cause oral irritation, drooling and an upset tummy.

It's not just a matter of a short-lived stomach upset, some of the above toxins can cause serious and long-term health problems and are potentially fatal. If you think that your dog may have been poisoned you should call your vet immediately. If you can't get hold of your vet then you can alternatively call the **Animal Poisons Helpline on 01202 509000.**

Tell your vet or the Animal Poisons Helpline what your dog has eaten and the amount, as well as the dog's breed and weight and whether they are on any medications.

Apart from toxins there are a number of other potential dangers that are a higher risk at this time of year: Cooked bones should never be given to your dog as they may splinter and cause internal injuries or blockages. Hot drinks should



FIRST AID PULL OUT



"It's important to keep an eye on your dog's behaviour and familiarise yourself with doggy stress signals"

be kept well away from dogs as they are the primary cause of burns.

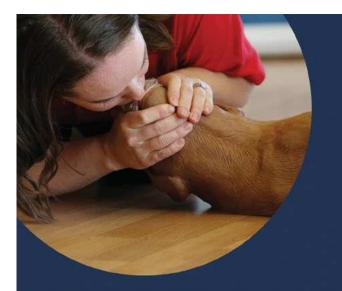
The final danger I'd like to mention is stress. Although for us Christmas is all about having fun and letting our hair down, it may not be so much fun for your dog. Routines are different, furniture is moved and things are noisier. While many dogs will take this in their stride, there are others who will find this very stressful. It's important to keep an eye on your dog's behaviour and familiarise yourself with doggy stress signals so that your dog is not pushed beyond its comfort level.

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Words: Emma Woodcock

Photography: Rutland Pet Photography

Breed Focus:

HIGHLAND HIGHRIER TERRIER

How do you pack so much wit, energy and affection into such a tiny terrier? The Westie finds a way! Emma Woodcock investigates.

he West Highland White Terrier.

One look at the full name of the scrappy terrier tells you everything you need to know about the breed's most distinctive trait: its colouration. When looking for a Westie, you can have any shade you want, so long as it's bright white. Peer into a pup's snowy visage and any keen owner-in-waiting should be able to spot a highly pigmented nose too, matched by eyes of such deep, deep brown they're almost black. Add a pair of eager, elfen ears and you've got one of the most distinctive looks in the dog kingdom.

Dust off the history books and it's widely

recorded that the West Highland Terrier first rose to prominence thanks to the breed's bright, uniform coat. Track the story further back, however, and facts are harder to find. A number of theories pin the pup's earliest days to the 16th or 17th century, pointing to the letters of King James I and the breeding practices of the Malcolm clan, yet others propose that the Westie was sparked by crossbreeding or natural variation in the Cairn and Scottish Terrier. No matter which explanation you prefer, white terriers were well established in Scotland before Queen Vic ascended to the throne.

As the 1800s progressed, three Scottish





breeders independently embarked upon the first selective breeding programmes. George Campbell, the 8th Duke of Argyll, Edward Malcolm, the 16th Laird of Poltalloch, and Dr. Flaxman all carefully developed white terriers, naming them the Roseneath, Poltalloch and Pittenweem respectively. Each of these dogs benefited from greater visibility when working against the dark backdrops of the Scottish Highlands and, as the century progressed, the three groups were increasingly seen as a single, distinct breed. When the 20th

century arrived, the West Highland White Terrier took three further leaps forward: the breed received its current name; the first breed club was established; and Kennel Club recognition was granted. By 1924, every dog on the British show circuit had an all-WHT pedigree.

Early Westies passed their coat and vigorous spirit down the generations but these pioneer dogs would definitely stand out in a modern show ring. Surviving photos show a developing breed with longer toplines, more voluminous tails and less assertively angled hocks than their modern successors. Today, the breed boasts one of the most recognisable of

the breed boasts one of the most recognisable outlines in the canine world. Key features of the silhouette include a straight back and a deep chest, set on short legs with strong and angular hindquarters. It's all set off by a sky-pointed tail, stiff, triangular ears and, of course, that luxuriant white coat.

Sweet, shining brilliance defines the best-kept Westies out there but such perfect results take more than magic to achieve. Owners looking to show their dog quickly become acquainted with their grooming chalk: West Highland Terriers are a double coated breed and most require hand stripping to perfect their hard, lustrous outer coat. Maintaining an ideal appearance also requires finger-and-thumb trimming, while back combing and careful brushing consume the final hours before a run in the show ring. Even everyday pet owners need daily brushing and weekly grooming routines to keep their

Westie healthy and happy.

Keeping a West Highland Terrier's coat under control can also make the breed a viable choice for owners cursed by dog allergies. We wouldn't go so far as to call the breed 'hypoallergenic', and it's always worth consulting medical professionals if asthma or a fur allergy could cause you serious health problems, but a number of less severely afflicted sufferers have reported successful Westie ownership. It's all thanks to the breed's relatively low rates of shedding and dander.

We can't leave the topic of intolerance and irritation without mentioning the allergy issues sadly suffered by Westies themselves. Atopic Dermatitis, a lifelong skin condition which can occur all over the body and causes widespread itchiness, is common in the breed. Sometimes caused by pollen and dust allergies, dermatitis often leads a dog to scratch themselves excessively and create further skin damage. Moisturising skin products and anti-itch medication can be used in conjunction to reduce symptoms.

WEST HIGHLAND TERRIER



Name: Fergus

Breed: West Highland Terrier

Age: 6

Best Qualities: Loyal and devoted to his family, very strong

willed, loves sitting on your lap being fussed. Loves: His Freddy fox toy and going for his walks.

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BREED FOCUS

More concerning but far less common are Hyperplastic Dermatosis and Malassezia Dermatitis. Malassezia is a yeast infection which causes red, inflamed skin and commonly affects a dog's ears. Left untreated, it can cause skin to turn black and even result in deafness. Hyperplastic Dermatosis is unique to West Highland Terriers and also presents with scaly skin, in addition to hair loss and a red-tinted coat. Both conditions are more manageable when caught early, so don't hesitate to contact your vet.

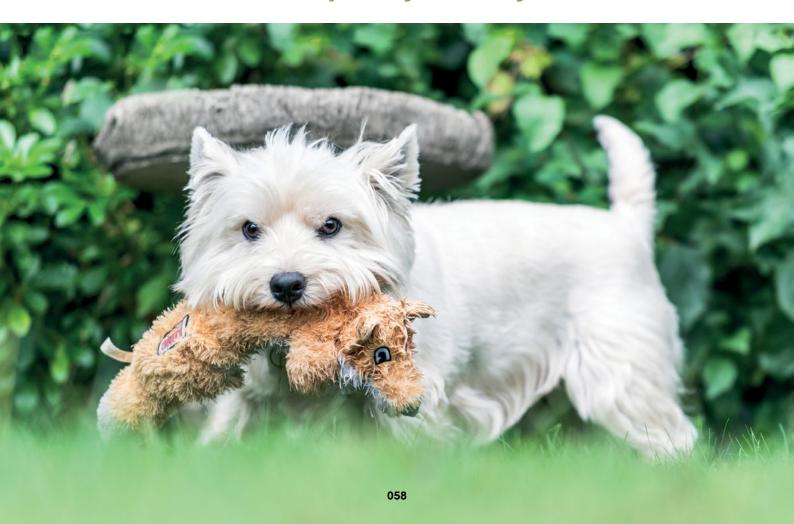
Craniomandibular Osteopathy, more commonly known as CMO and sometimes titled 'Westie Jaw', is another painful condition associated with West Highland Terriers. Pups afflicted by this hereditary disease suffer from excessive bony growth on the upper or lower jaw, often first presenting between four and seven months of age. A tender, swollen jaw region commonly signifies the condition, while CMO also causes significant pain, difficulty eating and a recurrent fever. Though the excess growth will stop increasing once a dog has reached maturity, there is no known cure and treatment focuses on reducing pain and inflammation.

The Kennel Club does not currently require assured West Highland breeders to abide by any breeding restrictions or mandatory health tests, concerning CMO or otherwise. Nevertheless, many breeders routinely screen dams and sires before mating from them. Using a DNA test, it can now be ascertained whether a dog: is genetically free of the condition, known as CMO-0; has a single copy of the mutation which causes the condition, CMO-1; or has two copies of the mutation, CMO-2. A recent study by Dr. Bamas showed that more than half of Westies tested were in the CMO-1 or CMO-2 categories, and careful breeding practices have been advised to bring this number down over time.

Provided with the care they need to look and live their best, Westies can find a happy home in a wide variety of situations. West Highland Terriers have an energetic but adaptable spirit, balancing their love for a lengthy jog with the ability to get by on a far lighter exercise regime. An impressive intellect is another admirable feature of the breed: West Highland Terriers delight in making their owners happy but require plenty of interaction to stay occupied. A bored Westie will quickly make their own fun, at the expense of your household furnishings... Both the breeder and the owner we spoke with also underlined the importance of early socialisation in encouraging the best parts of a Westie's friendly, outgoing personality.

Whether they're asserting their independence or curling up for some cuddle time, the West Highland Terrier has a love for life that could inspire any and every owner. They'll never be stopped by their bijou scale, they'll never be slowed down by their blizzard-hued coat and they're all the better for it.

"West Highland Terrier has a love for life that could inspire any and every owner."



Meet The Owner: Vhari Calder





hari Calder works in doggy day care at Carefree Canines but she comes home every evening to Brodie, a bouncy young Westie. 'He's only my second dog,' she explains, 'and he was a year-old last May. Before him, we used to look after another Westie for my friend: he just needed a little more care as he got older, and we had him until he was 17.

'We waited about a year before getting Brodie and that was a year too long as far as I'm concerned! We looked around and it was a confusing situation but we stuck with a proper farm dog from a local Ayrshire breeder, which meant we were able to go and see mum too. We specifically wanted a boy and, luckily, there was one boy in her litter of three. We saw him at four weeks and fell in love – we put the deposit down straight away and came back four weeks later when he was ready to leave!

'It was surprising how quickly Brodie adapted to his new home. He slept on the night he came home and the next morning he was quite happy where he was!' Brodie also integrated well with Vhari's husband, despite his dog allergy. 'Being around our Westie as a puppy, it seems his immune system is more able to deal with him. My husband can be affected by the skin oils and hair but, unless Brodie gets too close and starts licking, he's okay with Westies.'

'Brodie is showing signs of allergies himself though and anyone

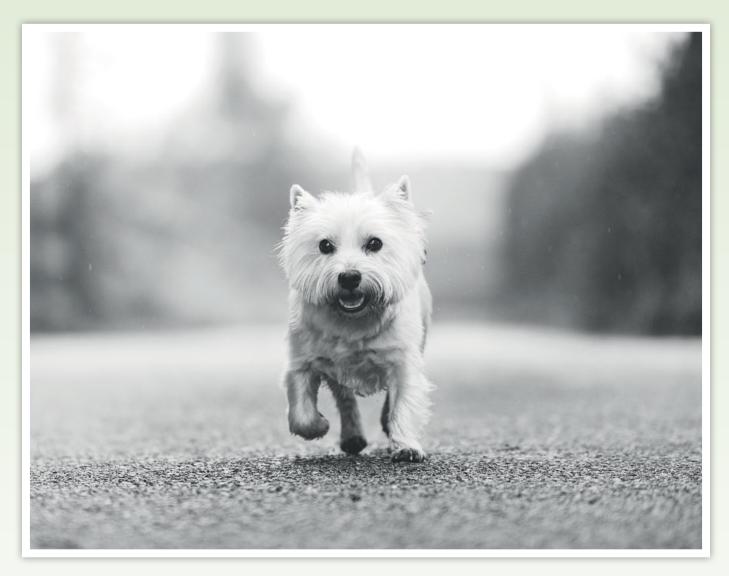
considering a Westie must consider that. My last dog had problems but his treatment wasn't consistent; he ended up going deaf and his dry eyes led to blindness. Brodie is on anti-itch medication and it helps if you're aware of it to begin with.'

'We've also socialised Brodie with other dogs from the first minute we could. That's very important: my previous Westie was very standoffish. He'll play all weekend with my mum's spaniels, once a week he'll come with me to work and three times a day we let him out in the field behind our house. We get him out for about 40 minutes each time, to make sure he has a run!'

'Brodie has an individual relationship with everyone in our house: he likes to play with his dad, he'll tuck in with my boys but he's a bit of a mummy's boy too. When you laugh, he can tell and will do more of whatever he's doing to keep you laughing. He's so in tune with the world around him!'

'That said, he's an independent wee soul... Brodie will come up for cuddles when he chooses, go away when he chooses and he's vocal. Westies are happy to be left alone so long as they feel safe but, when you're with them, you have to give them your time and stimulate them. If you don't, they'll make their own decisions and you might not like them. I love the fact that he's such a wee dog with such a big character!'

Meet The Breeder: Kath Berry



ath Berry has decades of experience breeding and showing Westies under the Ashgate West Highland Terriers banner. She first encountered the breed when she left home. 'I couldn't imagine being without a dog but I needed something which wasn't quite as large I used to see a man walking two Westies along when I was driving to work and I asked what they were like. He told me they were big dogs in little bodies: I thought that was ideal!'

'I got my first show Westie in 2001 from Sue Thomson, who has been breeding under the Ashgate title for over 40 years. Three or four years after I started showing, she asked whether I'd like to share the name with them and now we work very closely on the dogs we have in the ring. My first show dog later produced Amy, who became an English, an Irish and an International champion, and I've now had four champions which I've bred myself.'

Today, Kath has six West Highland Terriers and only breeds when she needs a dog for the show ring. 'Reputable breeders don't need to advertise. When people ask me about a puppy, I encourage them to keep in contact and then come to see the puppies at about five weeks. The people who are really keen want photos and weekly updates – and I'd rather be rung all the time than not hear from them!'

'Keeping your West Highland healthy is like a puzzle. You need to

think about diet, which can depend on the local climate. Westies are what they eat and dogs with poor nutrition can have dry and brittle or greasy coats. They mustn't be over exercised when they're little either: they can suffer hip socket degeneration just from falling off a sofa or down the stairs. You need to limit exercise before they're a year old and my puppies don't run with the adults. Instead, they're kept in a puppy pen – I wouldn't take a small puppy over the field with us. You can't be too careful.'

Our breed is quite friendly in the show community. In the ring we're there to win but you see the same people at pretty much every championship show and we all support each other. 95% of show dog owners screen for CMO too; it's a lot more affordable now. I also have my Westies' eyes tested. I've had a bitch with dry eyes and it was horrible. I never bred from her, I wouldn't. I breed for good health and temperament: if I didn't do that, I'd be breeding blind.'

'My Westies are so bubbly and they don't miss a trick. They need to know who's boss and they do take a lot of work. Every single night, when the time comes to put him to bed, my oldest male he won't come straight to me; he crawls along the floor and then just lays down, he won't move an inch. He can be very stubborn but he's very funny with it!

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Words: Emily Thomas

Starting a Canicross Business

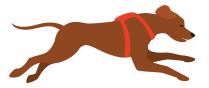
Emily shares the five things you need to consider before starting a canicross business.



Experience

Get your own experience with your dog — this is important because if you teach other people how to run with their dog, you need to be doing it yourself, 'walking the walk,' as the saying goes. It's also really helpful to have had your own struggles and have learned first-





STARTING A CANICROSS BUSINESS

hand how to troubleshoot any training or equipment issues to share with your clients.

Canicross Groups

The best way to get experience is by joining a local canicross club or setting one up if you haven't got anything local. By meeting up with others, you can learn from each other and start to see how to overcome any challenges running with your dog.

Canicross Races

Canicross specific races are also a great way to build on your experience, and if any of your clients are going to ask about what they involve, you are loaded with your answers so you can help guide them in the right direction.

Research

What is currently available? By researching what is already available in your local area and building a network within that community, you can identify your market and potential customers. Search Facebook groups and pet stores,

and interact with other pet professionals who may be able to direct people to you for current clients they have who are looking for canicross classes.

You might find that you already have a massive and successful canicross social group just down the

one tuition, can they offer sessions on teaching the core skills of canicross and do they have experience of racing which they can share

road from you. But do they offer one-to-

with members?

If there are areas you can see a gap in the market, then focus on expanding your knowledge in these areas so you can offer something above and beyond what anyone else in the local area is providing to give you your unique selling point.

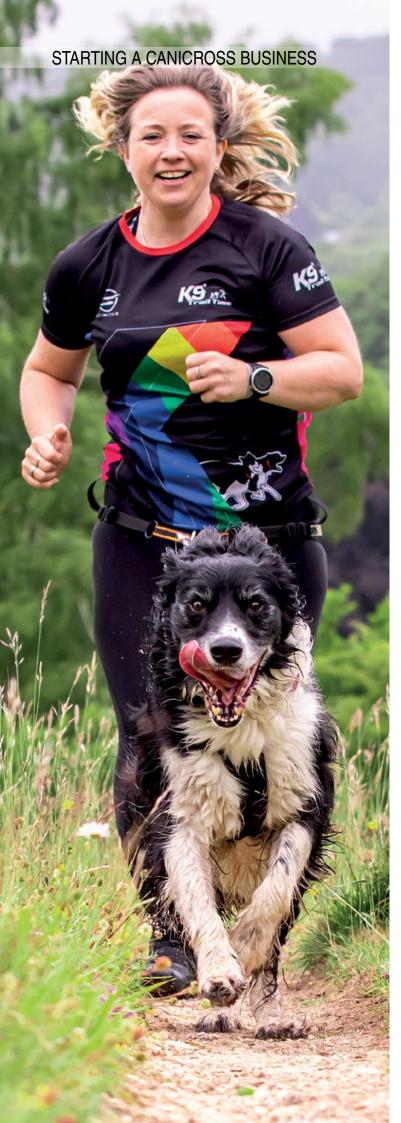
Explore options for your local routes

Go out and discover all the local routes that might be suitable to use for your canicross coaching classes and find out if you will need any permission to hold classes on the land you are thinking of using.

Canicross is a cross-country sport, so you may likely want

"If you teach other people how to run with their dog, you need to be doing it yourself"





to use public footpaths crossing farmer's fields, open access land, forestry commission-governed woodland or even privately or council-owned park spaces.

Familiarise yourself with the permission processes which might cover any land you want to use for your canicross coaching classes and any risk assessments you might need to gain those permissions.

Get familiar with the formalities

Develop a solid understanding of the relevant legislation that governs what you do with your dogs' when out and about in the countryside so that you can set up a policy for your classes that ensures everyone stays within the remit of the law.

Consider what insurance you need for yourself as a business or an individual teaching people to run with their dogs. If you already own a dog training business, it might just be a case of adding canicross as a bolt-on to your existing policy.

"A basic understanding of dog behaviour is also required if you work with high-energy and possibly reactive dogs."

Training

General dog-related training. Completing relevant activities, which will help you expand your knowledge and provide a professional service for your customers, is a must. First aid training for humans is essential if you're responsible for the welfare of dogs and people in your classes. A basic understanding of dog behaviour is also required if you work with high-energy and possibly reactive dogs.

Specific canicross training

If you are going to complete any specific canicross coach or instructor training, ensure the training is delivered by experienced canicrossers, is detailed and covers everything you need it to at the stage you are at for the progression of your business.

If you'd like to know more about what we do, like more information about running with dogs or setting up your own canicross coaching business, please get in touch.

Emily Thomas - Co-Director Canicross Coach

Mobile Number: 07838 125843

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Words: Royal Veterinary College

SKIN FOLD DERMATITIS

New study from the **Royal Veterinary College** finds that flat-faced dogs are at the highest risk of skin fold dermatitis

ew research from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) has found that some popular flat-faced dog breeds, including the English Bulldog, French Bulldog and Pug, are at the highest risk of skin fold dermatitis – a painful skin condition.

Skin fold dermatitis is caused by friction, excessive moisture and lack of ventilation deep in folds of skin. It ranges from reddened to infected and ulcerated skin that has a bad smell and often results in pain throughout a dog's life. The impact of the condition on canine welfare has risen over the past decade due to dramatically rising worldwide popularity of some flat-faced dog breeds (which often exhibit deep facial folds). Other factors such as obesity and chronic skin disease can also predispose to skin fold dermatitis.

The study, by the RVC's VetCompass Programme, included more than 900,000 dogs from the general pet dog population under veterinary care in the UK. Anonymised veterinary clinical

THE STUDY FOUND THAT THE BREEDS WITH THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF SKIN FOLD DERMATITIS DIAGNOSES EACH YEAR WERE

6.1%

2.7%

2.1%

ENGLISH BULLDOG

FRENCH BULLDOG

PUG

"A formal diagnosis of skin fold dermatitis was recorded in one in 300 of all dogs each year (0.37% of dogs diagnosed annually)"



records were searched for diagnoses of skin fold dermatitis within a single year.

The results showed that a formal diagnosis of skin fold dermatitis was recorded in one in 300 of all dogs each year (0.37% of dogs diagnosed annually). However, certain breeds showed much higher levels of the condition.

The study found that the breeds with the highest proportion of skin fold dermatitis diagnoses each year were English Bulldog (6.1%); French Bulldog (2.7%) and Pug (2.1%). Overall, 1.0% of all flat-faced (brachycephalic) dogs were affected compared to just 0.3% of dogs with the typical medium-length skull. Breeds that typically show pronounced skin folds on the face or body were between 11-49 times more likely to suffer from the condition than crossbreed dogs. Purebred dogs had an increased risk (x2.5) of skin fold dermatitis compared to crossbred dogs.

The most common locations on the dog's body for skin fold dermatitis were the lip (36.8%); facial folds (22.0%); vulva (14.2%); nasal fold (9%); tail (5.8%) and periocular fold (surrounding the eyeball) (3.5%); and the most common clinical signs recorded were reddened skin (34.2%), inflammation (24.2%), moistness (20.6%), malodour (18.6%) and pain (18.0%).

Dr Anke Hendricks, co-author and Associate Professor in Veterinary Dermatology at the RVC, said:

"Skin fold dermatitis is a common problem in dogs with skin folds or pockets. It is not always easy to spot where folds are deep, nor is it necessarily recorded in the health records, and as such this study is likely to underestimate the problem. Prevention or treatment of infection requires very frequent skin care or medication throughout a dog's life and adds a considerable care burden and cost to living with an affected dog."

Additional key findings include:

The breeds with the highest percentage of dogs affected with skin fold dermatitis were English Bulldog (6.1%), French Bulldog (2.7%), Pug (2.1%), Basset Hound (2.0%), Cocker Spaniel (1.3%), Shar-Pei (0.9%), Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (0.9%) and Boxer (0.9%).

The breeds with the highest predisposition (compared to cross bred dogs) for skin fold dermatitis were English Bulldog (x49.1 times risk), French Bulldog (x25.9), Pug (x16.3), Basset Hound (x10.7), Cocker Spaniel (x7.5), Shar Pei (x6.4), Boxer (x4.6) and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (x4.5).

The most protected breeds that had at least one case of skin fold dermatitis were Yorkshire Terrier (x0.1), Border Collie (x0.3) Jack Russell Terrier (x0.5) and Labrador Retriever (0.6).

The three breeds with extreme flat faces (brachycephaly) (English Bulldog, French Bulldog and Pug) showed high levels of facial, nasal, and periocular locations. In contrast, the lips were the dominant location in the spaniel breeds (Cocker Spaniel and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) and the West Highland White Terrier.

The risk of diagnosis with skin fold dermatitis rose as dogs

aged. Pain was recorded in nearly one in five dogs that had a record of clinical signs of skin fold dermatitis.

Bill Lambert, Health, Welfare and Breeder Services Executive at The Kennel Club. said:

"Skin fold dermatitis is a serious condition and although this research, funded in part by The Kennel Club Charitable Trust, found that only 0.37% of dogs, and 1% of flat-faced dogs, were affected, it's likely that some owners don't recognise the signs to look out for and may not seek treatment. This is an important reminder that owners of dogs with wrinkles should be aware of the potential problems and know how to avoid them – by cleaning their dog's skin folds daily, ensuring they're kept dry and making sure their dog is not overweight.

"It is also vital that people make informed puppy buying choices and avoid those dogs that are bred for extreme wrinkles – which are far removed from what's described in breed standards – and instead 'stop and think', and find a responsible breeder, who has their dogs' welfare at heart."

"Owners of dogs with wrinkles should be aware of the potential problems and know how to avoid them"





"We urge members of the public to do their research, speak to their local breed clubs and veterinary professionals, and stop and think before buying a flat faced dog."



Dr Laura Hamilton, veterinary surgeon and Breed Health Coordinator UK French Bulldog Clubs, said:

"The French Bulldog Clubs and all those who care about these dogs, agree extreme exaggerations - like excessive skin folds - must be avoided, and are disappointed in the recent trend of rogue breeders producing increasingly extreme brachycephalic dogs, like Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, and Pugs, for profit.

"We have changed the breed standard to call for more moderation and continue to urge breeders to move away from over-wrinkling, to improve the health and welfare of French Bulldogs.

"We urge members of the public to do their research, speak to their local breed clubs and veterinary professionals, and stop and think before buying a flat faced dog. We would recommend the public to move towards purchasing dogs with less exaggerated skin folds and therefore less health and welfare issues relating to this exaggeration."

Reference

Dan G. O'Neill, Dara Rowe, Dave C. Brodbelt, Camilla Pegram & Anke Hendricks (2022) "Ironing out the wrinkles and folds in the epidemiology of skin fold dermatitis in dog breeds in the UK", Nature Scientific Reports

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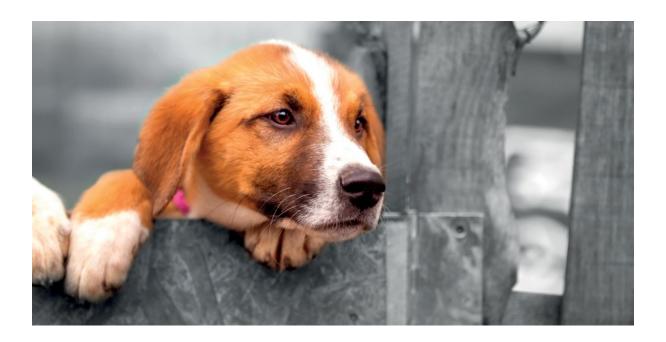
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Dogs Trust: A looming crisis

With interest rates at their highest since 1995, **Dogs Trust** warns of a looming housing crisis for dogs.

ollowing the recent rises in interest rates, the UK's leading dog welfare charity has warned that the sky-high cost of essentials, such as eating and heating, is leaving many dog owners unable to provide for their dogs.

With adoption numbers dropping because people can't afford to take on a new dog, this has the potential to lead to a housing crisis for the nation's dogs, says Dogs Trust.

Record numbers

Over recent months, the charity has received a record number of calls from people asking Dogs Trust to take in their dogs, in the face of the new cost of everyday living. Inquiries to give up a dog have increased to the highest level since its records began, with 4,370 inquiries received in July 2022.

There's been a notable increase in the number of people calling in for financial reasons, citing problems such as huge increases in their regular monthly bills, such as energy and mortgage payments, as the reason why they can no longer afford doggy basics such as food, which has also itself increased in price.

In addition, Dogs Trust's monthly poll of the UK's dog owners, run by YouGov, shows that 40% of respondents this month thought they would find it more difficult to give their dog all they needed, compared to before the cost of living crisis began.

Vet bills continued to cause the most worry; over half (51%) of dog owners said vet bills were currently their biggest financial canine concern for the coming year. One in five (20%) was most worried about the cost of dog food, while 15% named insurance as their lead worry.

DOGS TRUST: A LOOMING CRISIS

Housing crisis for dogs

The number of owners contacting Dogs Trust to inquire about giving up their dog is sky-rocketing – the charity has seen the number of inquiries from owners needing to give up their dogs rising to its highest level since its Contact Centre opened in 2014, with 4,370 handover enquiries received in July alone; a trend which is increasing month-on-month and has doubled compared to the start of 2021.

Meanwhile, when non-dog owners were asked, as part of the August poll, whether the rising cost of living would prevent them from adopting or buying a dog, six out of ten (61%) said it would.

Owen Sharp, Dogs Trust CEO, says:

"The UK is fast heading towards a situation in which, due to the cost of living crisis, we'll have a surplus of dogs whose owners need to give them up, but a deficit of people who can afford to take on a new dog.

"Dogs Trust is issuing an urgent call for emergency foster carers, especially people with experience of caring for big dogs, who can provide a port in a storm to a dog who, for the moment, has nowhere else to go. If you can help, we urge you to get in touch with us and help look after the nation's dogs through this crisis."

"Likewise, if you're struggling to afford looking after your own dog, Dogs Trust will do all it can to help. I'm afraid we can't promise miracles, but we're always here to listen without judgement, talk through the options and give dog owners the benefit of our expert knowledge."



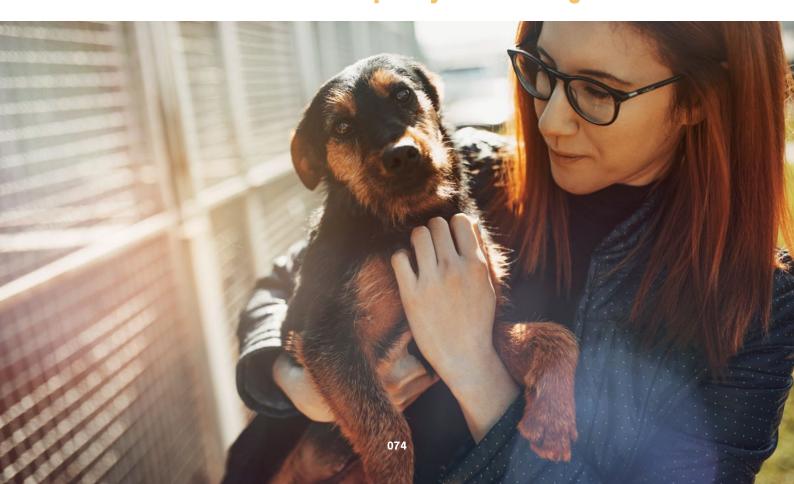
How you can help

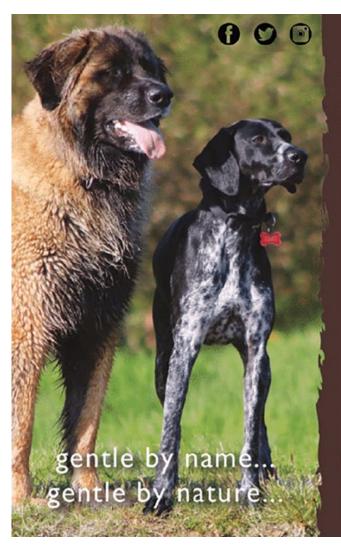
Dogs Trust is urgently seeking fosterers – experienced dog owners who can offer temporary homes to dogs in need.

The charity is calling out, in particular, to people with space in their homes and hearts for dogs which are more difficult to find forever homes for, such as big dogs, un-housetrained dogs, and dogs with challenging behaviour. If you think you can offer a dog in need a temporary home while the UK is in financial crisis, please contact us at:

www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/fostering

"Dogs Trust is urgently seeking fosterers - experienced dog owners who can offer temporary homes to dogs in need."







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IPET NETWORK

iPET Network launches dogs in the workplace gold standard qualification for firms.

ore and more people would like to bring their dogs to work, and the iPET Network has launched a gold standard qualification for employers to help them prepare for a potential doggy deluge.

Since the pandemic puppy boom, the return to the office has brought with it challenges for many staff members, not least a new pet which may be suffering from separation anxiety at home.

There are also a number of benefits to bringing

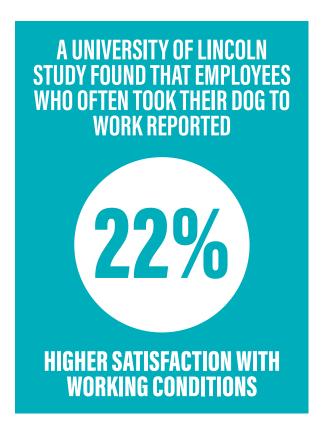
a pet to the workplace, and studies have found that increased productivity and work satisfaction

was a result of welcoming a furry friend.

A University of Lincoln study found that employees who often took their dog to work reported 22% higher satisfaction with working conditions.

It also discovered that employees who took their dog to work reported increased absorption in their work by a significant 33.4% and in their dedication to work by 16.5% – an overall increase in work engagement of 14.4%.

But there are challenges to overcome, and the new



Ofqual regulated qualification, which is aimed at managers and HR leaders, provides policy templates and training, so that workplaces can not only be dog friendly, but safe for everyone too.

Sarah Mackay and Fern Gresty, directors of the iPET Network, said: "With more dogs than ever in the UK, and people now back at work after a lengthy working from home period, we saw a real need for this kind of qualification.

"Having dogs at work is a wonderful thing, but managers and HR leaders need to have a policy in place, to ensure that everyone in the workplace, including the pets, are safe, healthy and happy.

"This qualification gives workplaces everything that they need to introduce dogs in a way that really is the gold standard."

Workplaces who take part in the course are given special insignia to display on the premises, and policy templates are provided in a number of key areas.

Sarah and Fern added: "We would encourage any workplace that already welcomes dogs to do the course, as there is probably something that workplace is missing.

"At the centre of all we do are the rights and welfare of animals, but there are considerations for humans too in policy making, and the course explains how to deal with that."

"Having dogs at work is a wonderful thing, but managers and HR leaders need to have a policy in place, to ensure that everyone in the workplace, including the pets, are safe, healthy and happy."



Here iPET Network's canine first aid expert Rachel Bean gives her key considerations when thinking about allowing dogs into work:

- 1. Not everyone likes dogs: Consider putting a diplomatic policy in place which creates a safe space for the dog phobic.
- 2. Toilet time: When fido needs to go it is important that your workplace has an outside space. Also, do you have a dog bin to dispose of waste?
- **3. Safety first:** Put in a place a policy around dog-proofing any spaces with wires, or equipment. These could prove a hazard for a visiting dog.
- **4. Rota up:** Many people might want to take the opportunity to bring their dog to work. Consider implementing a rota system.
- **5. Behaviour:** All dogs are different, so consider putting in place an assessment for regularly visiting dogs. Does the dog get on well with other dogs? Do they bark or chew? It's always a good idea to know these things.

To find out more about the course go to: www.ipetnetwork.co.uk

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gift guide, specially tailored to say thank you to our beloved furry friends for everything they do.

From cosy personalised blankets and fancy bow ties, to indulgent Christmas dinners and baubles bursting with treats, you're bound to find the perfect gift for your best friend.



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Have your photo laser engraved into a high quality crystal. These wonderful photo crystals bring your favourite photographs to life in stunning 3D. A wide range of sizes for all needs and budgets.

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Christmas Dog Treats

Luxury Christmas themed dog biscuits, cookies and cupcakes for your dog. Personalised biscuits, selection boxes and gift boxes available. Hand baked to order. Nationwide delivery.

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Christmas Gift Box

A selection of all our delicious flavours and a Giant Merry Christmas Bone. Includes Arran scene postcard for your gift message!

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Pawfect Hoodies

Pawfect hoodies for dog lovers this Christmas! A brushed cotton unisex hooded sweatshirt made from 85% organic ring-spun combed cotton. Personalised options are also available in a selection of colours.

Price: £45.00 - £50.00 (for personalised options)

Available from: Crumble and Bert
Website: www.crumbleandbert.co.uk



Tuffies Nest Bed

The ultimate in dog comfort: The Tuffies nest bed. Waterproof, hard wearing fabric with removable fleece cover on bottom cushion. Extra covers available for extra warmth, comfort and freshness.

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Cod Wreath

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Harley's Holistic Hounds

Harley's Holistic Hounds promote a natural, holistic and healthy lifestyle for dogs. We only sell natural products with no hidden nasties.

To spoil your dog this Christmas we have some lovely treats and toys available at unbeatable prices.

Prices:

JR Advent Calendar - £13.49 Soopa Selection Box - £6.50 Xmas Teddy - From £4.00

Free bag of homemade xmas treats with every order

Bundle - Selection box, teddy and green & wilds turk-in treats in a

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Available from: Harley's Holistic Hounds Website: www.harleysholistichounds.com



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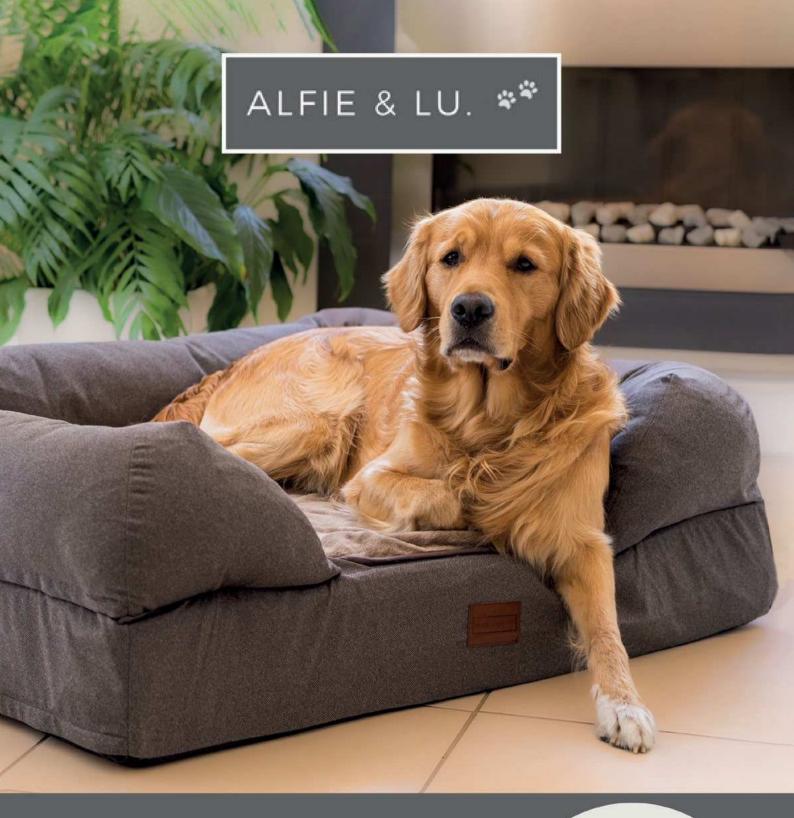


Handmade Accessories

Treat your dog to a box of 12 numbered gifts, one for each of the 12 days of Christmas. Includes a selection of natural treats and a toy. Wheat & gluter free, with no additives.

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"Reindeer" print dog bandana

Cute handmade "Reindeer" print dog bandana in navy cotton poplin. A perfect stocking filler for your dog this Christmas from Leo Charley and Me. Available in 4 sizes.

Prices from: £7 to £10

Available from: **Leo Charley and Me**Website: **www.leocharleyandme.co.uk**



PARK LiFE Jolly Bix

Tree Shaped biscuits with Turkey and Cranberry. Show your pupper you care this festive season, and say "Yappy Christmas" with Jolly Bix. Grain Free, 100% Natural, and High Protein.

Price: RRP £5.99

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Website: www.parklife.dog



Magic Paw Balm for Dogs

Our WildWash Magic Paw Balm for Dogs with Sweet Almond Oil, Frankincense and Kanuka is a super conditioning paw treatment that will moisturise your dogs' cracked, dry and rough paws and help form a barrier to protect them from everyday wear and tear. It is great for use in extreme weather conditions and affords protection against; hot pavements, road grit, ice and salt. This wonder product can also be used to moisturise nails,

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Available from: Wild Wash Website: www.wildwash.co.uk



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Luxury handmade "Christmas Star" print dog collar and lead with matching bandana, bow tie and collar flower. Several sizes available.

Perfect for every pup this Christmas from Leo Charley and Me.

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Goodchap's Award winning Christmas crackers with 2 built in rope toy: that your dog can actually pull! Both sizes are filled with natural treats the larger with salmon treats and the smaller with our puppy friendly training treats.

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Forthglade Christmas Range

Limited-Edition 12 meals of Christmas (12 x 395g), Limited edition '8 meals of Christmas' (8 x 150g) and Limited-Edition Turkey with Cranberry Soft Bites (90g). Devon-based dog food makers, Forthglade, have unveiled their limited-edition Christmas range for 2022.

Your dog can enjoy a Christmas treat over the festive period with the '12 meals of Christmas' a selection of complete meals including turkey with cranberry and parsnip, beef with pumpkin and broccoli and lamb with vegetables and mint. Smaller dogs can tuck into the '8 meals of Christmas' filled with delicious complete meals of turkey with sweet potato and vegetables and duck with potato and vegetables.

Inspired by Christmas and bursting with goodness, all the meals are grain-free with 75% turkey, beef, lamb or duck, making them ideal for dogs with sensitive tummies. With added vitamins and minerals, the complete meals provide your

four-legged friends with everything they need to stay fit and healthy. Suitable for dogs aged 1 year+, the limited edition '12 meals of Christmas' and '8 meals of Christmas' are available from September 1st, RRP £19.49 (12 meals – 395g trays) and RRP £6.25 (8 meals – 150g trays).

As a Christmas day treat, Forthglade have also unveiled grain-free turkey with cranberry natural soft bites. Packed with natural ingredients and free from junk, the UK made treats are full of goodness and flavour making them the perfect treat for your four-legged friend over the festive period.

Suitable for dogs aged 2 months+, the treats come in a convenient recyclable pouch.

Available from: Forthglade
Website: wwww.forthglade.com



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Price: £24.99

Available from: Nibble and Nosh Website: www.nibbleandnosh.co.uk



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Two Christmas decorations filled with salmon treats and puppy friendly training treats, both have handy hooks so you can hang them from your Christmas tree!

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Available from: DoggyRade

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CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE



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With Autumn upon us and darker nights fast approaching, it really is time to start planning for Christmas!

This year, Fish4Dogs are once again selling their coveted Advent Calendar for dogs. Consisting of 24 numbered windows, which are opened each day of December in the run-up to Christmas, alternated with two delicious treats for your beloved canine friend, Fish4Dogs Sea Jerky Squares and Fish4Dogs Mackerel Morsels.

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The Ultimate Christmas Snood

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You even have the opportunity to personalise and add your pet's name onto the snood free of charge, available in a wide range of sizes and made to order.

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Available from: **Harry and Ginny Designs**Website: **www.harryandginnydesigns.com**



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- ECO-FRIENDLY PACKAGING

Price: £6.95

Available from: **Good Chaps**Website: www.goodchaps.co.uk



Dinner & Selection Box

This holiday season, Burns Pet Nutrition, the leading healthy pet food company, is thrilled to announce the release of two new limited-edition festive feasts for dogs; a new Christmas dinner and a Christmas Selection Box.

Prices:

The gift box is £6.00 + postage (Free shipping over £47).

The Christmas Turkey wet dog food tray is £11.99 (12 x 150g trays) or
£13.89 (6 x 395g trays).

Available from: **Burns Pet**Website: www.burnspet.co.ul



Paleoridge Christmas

The limited-edition Paleo Ridge Christmas meal creates a taste sensation, so dogs can join their families with a festive dinner designed especially for them. The Classic Christmas Pheasant, Turkey, and Lamb (500g) meal includes high quality and ethically sourced ingredients and follows the 80-10-10 formula.

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Price: £5.95 Available from: Life of Riley Website: www.lifeofrileyuk.com



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Inside the box you will find:

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Available from: DoggyRade Website: www.doggyrade.com





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A festive gift box for your canine companion. Treat your dog to a box of 12 numbered gifts, one for each of the 12 days of Christmas. Includes a selection of Goodchap's natural treats and a toy.

- NATURAL TREATS
- 100% NATURAL, HAND-MADE TOYS
- **■** ECO-FRIENDLY PACKAGING



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 Natural Advent Calendars

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ebodhi_birchtree

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE





The perfect Christmas gift for your dog. Bugalugs Gift Sets are packed with bestselling, vegan and cruelty free pet care products.

Ultimate Set

 $6\,\mathrm{X}$ best selling pet care products for all your dog's needs.

<u>Shampoo Set</u>

4 X 500ml vegan dog shampoos.

Price: £35.99

Mini Gifts Sets

This includes Bugalugs Baby Fresh Set, One in a Million Set, Essentials Set

& Shampoo Set.
Price: £19.99 (each)

Available from: **Bugalugs Pet Care**

Website: www.bugalugspetcare.com

Buy from: www.bugalugspetcare.com/buygiftsets





My Anxious Dog

Do you want that perfect Christmas gift for your anxious dog this Christmas?

Our range of award-winning leads, harnesses, yellow doggie jumpers and raincoats will keep your dog stylish and warm this Christmas. Let others know that your dog is anxious and in yellow because they need that all important space.

Price from: £19.99

Available from: **My Anxious Dog** Website: **www.myanxiousdog.co.uk**



Woofbox

Woofbox - Delivering Award-Winning Happiness to Dogs Everywhere! Family run UK company offering a super fun selection of gift boxes and monthly subscriptions for dogs. Our Christmas gift boxes full of tasty treats and exciting toys are the perfect present for your playful pooch this festive season, delivered FREE straight to your door.

NEW for 2022: Pawfect Pal Subscription Gift Pack! For those who want to give the gift of doggy happiness every single month!

Website: www.woof-box.co.uk



Nigel the Nutcracker Cookie

Our pets are part of the family, and they deserve the very best - spoil your own dog or take advantage of their gifting options!

Price: £4.95 Available from: Life of Riley Website: www.lifeofrileyuk.com









USE CODE CHRISTMAS22 FOR 25% OFF YOUR PURCHASE ON OUR WEBSITE!





SUITABLE FOR DOGS WITH ALLERGIES, OBESITY, DIABITIES AND PANCREATITIS

TEDDYS-TREATS.COM @TEDDYSTREATS.OFFICIAL





Festive Edition Snuffle Ball

Large 32 pocket snuffle ball to pack full of treats

Acts as a boredom buster and provides mental stimulation.

Sherpa Fleece Dog Snood

Double lined cotton snood lined with sherpa fleece inside. Available in a range of designs. Slip on over your dogs neck to keep them cosy and look festive.

Price: £13-£15

Polar Fleece Dog Blankets

Handmade using double lined polar fleece to ensure maximum thickness and warmth. We use fleece designed to trap body heat. Available in a range of colours and designs.

Price: £20.99

Available from: **Bodhi Birchtree**Website: **www.bodhibirchtree.co.uk**



Pup's 1st Gift Box

This gift boxes are packed with Goodchap's natural treats and toys, perfect for showing any dog your appreciation.

- NATURAL TREATS
- 100% NATURAL, HAND-MADE TOYS
- ECO-FRIENDLY PACKAGING
- MADE IN BRITAIN

Price: £14.50

Available from: **Good Chaps**Website: www.goodchaps.co.uk









santa Paws is coming to town:

INCLUDE YOUR FURRY FRIEND IN THE FESTIVE FUN WITH WEBBOX.







AVAILABLE IN ALL SUPERMARKETS AND MAJOR PET RETAILERS

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AT BUY ON ME. CO. UK

Don't let fireworks stress & frighten your pet

Naturally calms within 2 hours



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Fast acting support for stress & anxiety
For degs & cats

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Nutracalm is ideal for use in situations such as fireworks because of its fast acting natural formula that helps reduce stress & anxiety.

- ✓ Helps reduce stress & anxiety
- ✓ Calms behaviour
- ✓ Fast acting (see results in 1-2 hours)
- ✓ Natural solution, no sedative effect
- ✓ Veterinary strength formula
- ✓ Easy administration
- ✓ For dogs, cats & horses





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